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WEEKEND
NSL
REPORTS

WEEKLY

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

AGENTS STRIKE!

BY LOU GAUTIER

WANTED!



JOHN FILAN

IT'S this time of the year again — when foreign agents and talent scouts come sniffing at Australia's best football talent.

Australian clubs, lock up your players, the enemy is at the gate!

Leading European agents are in Australia looking at a new bunch of local talent, cannon fodder, you could say, for European clubs always on the lookout for bargains.

And they don't come any cheaper than Australia as far as transfer fees are concerned.

The success overseas of Frank Farina, Eddie Krncevic, Chris Kalantzis, Jim Patikas, Robbie Slater and Vlado Bozinoski, just to name the more prominent, has made Australia a major source of inexpensive talent.

Australian players have done far better



abroad than their counterparts from, say, the United States or Canada, whose standard is just about on a par with ours.

Australia's great ethnic mix has produced a special, typically Australian, type of footballer who is very much in demand in Europe right now.

The agents are said to be hot on the trail of the likes of Andrew Bernal, Paul Okon, David Seal, Paul Trimboli, Tony Krslovic, Ned Zelic, John Filan and Lorenz Kindtner amongst others.

All of them would fit ideally into the plans of Belgian, Dutch and French clubs, countries in

which Australian players have proved themselves.

The Australian Soccer Federation has yet to do anything about stopping the flow of our best players overseas.

They have yet to officially appoint an agent or introduce more realistic transfer fees that will stop our players being sold at dirt-cheap prices.

It could do worse than to link up with Eddie Krncevic, due in Australia this week.

Krncevic has expressed an interest in becoming player agent for the ASF in Europe.

The ASF should nominate him as the only official agent allowed to approach Australian players and place them in Europe, with the blessing of the national body and their clubs — and at more realistic transfer prices.

WANTED!



PAUL TRIMBOLI

ASF's \$60,000 lure to FIFA

THE Australian Soccer Federation has offered to foot the bill of \$60,000 to bring Israel to Australia for the play-offs of next year's World Under 20 Youth Cup.

FIFA has scheduled the play-offs for Tel Aviv in February, but because of the situation in the Persian Gulf has delayed a decision until January 15.

Australia and Israel will play-off for a berth in the finals in Portugal in June 1991.

The ASF, through the Oceania Confederation, teleaxed the all-expenses paid offer to FIFA last week.

Inside your ASW

- Wollongong sponsorship P2
- Robbie Ironside interview P8

Melbourne's bid for Cup semis

VICTORIA is making a concerted bid to stage the NSL Cup semi-finals as a double-header in Melbourne.

Led by South Melbourne Hellas president George Vasilopoulos, South and Preston have approached the NSL to stage both matches at Olympic Park early in February.

South Melbourne have drawn Melita Eagles and Preston's opponents are Apia Leichhardt.

Vasilopoulos, not unreasonably, says the NSL Cup just doesn't draw in Sydney.

Attendances have indeed been pathetic over the past three seasons, whereas Melbourne — and Adelaide — have attracted healthy Cup crowds.

Vasilopoulos believes the semi-final double-header at Olympic Park could draw between 5,000 and 7,000 spectators.

The NSL is expected to consider the matter early in the new year after speaking to the Sydney semi-finalists.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY
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QUIT NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb. Croatia	12	7	3	2	29	19	17
South Melbourne	12	6	5	1	20	12	17
Marconi	12	8	0	4	24	15	16
Preston	12	6	3	3	18	12	15
Sydney Croatia	12	4	5	3	13	12	13
Wollongong City	12	6	1	5	17	17	13
Adelaide City	12	4	5	3	12	13	13
Parra Melita	12	4	3	5	17	17	11
Sydney Olympic	12	2	7	3	12	15	11
Apia Leichhardt	12	4	2	6	14	15	10
Heidelberg Utd	12	2	5	5	12	18	9
St George	12	2	4	6	13	18	8
Sunshine GC	12	3	2	7	20	29	8
Wollongong Macedonia	12	1	5	6	8	17	7

Results

PRESTON 2 (Jolevski, Spink) APIA LEICHHARDT 0 at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 2500.
WOLLONGONG CITY 3 (Brodnik, Kuc, Lloyd) SUNSHINE GC 0 at Brandon Park. Crowd: 1995.
ST GEORGE 2 (Bingley, Harper) SYDNEY CROATIA 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 2498.
HEIDELBERG UTD 2 (Stevenson, Rizopoulos) SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Petersen, Wade) at Olympic Village. Crowd: 10,200.
MARCONI 3 (Seal 3) WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA 1 (Fletcher) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 3456.
MELBOURNE CROATIA 3 (Awaritefe 2, Kelic) ADELAIDE CITY 0 at Somers St. Crowd: 3000.
PARRA MELITA 1 (Callinan) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 5622.

CROWDS

ROUND 12: 29,271
AVERAGE PER GAME: 4,181
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 269,716
AVERAGE PER ROUND: 22,476

TOP SCORERS

DAVID SEAL (Marconi)	11
TONY KRSLOVIC (Sydney Croatia)	10
WARREN SPINK (Preston)	7
IVAN KELIC (Melbourne Croatia)	7
GREG BROWN (Parra Melita)	6
FRANCIS AWARITEFE (Melbourne Croatia)	6



Robbie Ironside streaks away against Melita Eagles yesterday.

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- Appearing before the Tribunals and Committees of the State and National Leagues
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Souths out to retain unbeaten home record

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

WITH the QNSL reaching the halfway point this weekend, all eyes will be on Middle Park when South Melbourne host Marconi this Sunday.

Arguably the best two sides in the land in recent years, Souths and Marconi are likely to turn in another epic battle, to thrill what should be a huge crowd.

Last season a totally pumped up Souths machine took the champions to the cleaners and the 3-1 victory was regarded as one of their best performances in years.

Unbeaten at home for some 23 matches, Puskas' boys are likely to once again turn up the heat on a Marconi side that are woeful away from Bossley Park.

The visitors have lost three of their last four away and have not scored in their last two.

Zlatko Nastevski, getting back to something like his old self,

may be included to prise open the solid Souths backline.

South Melbourne, with Michael Michalakopoulos' marvellous talent of sniffing out goals in recent weeks, should continue their fine home run by taking the points.

Sydney Croatia, on the hunt for a place in the top five, host the out of touch Heidelberg this weekend.

Midfielder John Gibson should return from suspension for Croatia, who look to have too many big guns for the Bergers.

The lethal partnership formed between Manis Lamond and new signing Tony Krslovic will prove a handful for Len McKendry's men who have not won for eight matches.

The Bergers have lost their last three games away from home without scoring, while Croatia remain unbeaten on their home soil.

BHP's commitment to Wollongong City

BY KEITH GILMOUR

BHP — They call it the Big Australian — but down Wollongong way their Port Kembla Steelworks seem more like "the modest Australian."

After dealing out the Wollongong BHP Wolves some \$100,000 and disclosing they intend to do the same again in 1991, they nevertheless preferred to go quiet on the actual amount.

All they want known is that BHP supports the local community, and that the Wolves and soccer are but one of its projects.

Group general manager BHP Steel and Plate products division, Graham Parker, said:

"We have targeted the use of the area in three main sports, and have maintained and improved our sponsorships."

"We are looking to greater professionalism and greater funding for the club, and a group of our executives has put together a 1991/95 club business plan."

By obtaining more valuable sponsors, the club is seeking income of \$456,000 next season, increasing to \$650,000 by 1995.

The business plan hits objectives in every area — a full-time coach, marketing manager, youth development officer, on field performance to Top Five and championship.



winning teams, reconstruction of the club board, and even improvements to the excellent Brandon Park Complex.

Mr Parker said that the company objective is "total quality management" and the same principle would apply to the BHP Wolves — a total community football club.

Two BHP executives are expected to join the club board.

Wolves president Lawrie Kelly referred to the tremendous pride in the Wollongong region.

ASF chairman John Constantine spoke of soccer's need for the corporate dollar, increasing professional management, and the gains from the BHP and the business community getting behind soccer.

The function to make the announcements was held at the huge Fraternity Club, close to Brandon Park.

The club's background at this stage of its 10th Anniversary was well chronicled in a recent 12-page colour supplement in the Illawarra Mercury.



BRANKO MILOSEVIC — features prominently in Melbourne Croatia's plans — JOE MONTEMURRO photo.

Despite Heidelberg's fighting draw with South Melbourne yesterday, Croatia should take the spoils this weekend.

Sydney Olympic, desperately attempting to salvage their chances this season, host the hot and cold Preston this Sunday.

It must be a do or die effort from the defending champions, who will be missing star midfielder Abbas Saad (suspended), sensationally sent off after his long awaited return from Singapore.

Saad's cohort, Alistair Edwards, will make his return, however, after missing the clash against Melita yesterday.

Olympic remain unbeaten at home but have only won once in their last five home matches, while Preston are yet to win away from Connor Reserve.

Preston must remedy their poor away record, failing to score for two months, while only dropping a point on their home turf.

With only one win in their last 11 matches, Olympic must win on Sunday but a draw looks likely.

Adelaide City, looking to consolidate a place in the top five, host the dangerous

Melita this weekend. Melita, who have lost only once in six matches away, will still be without the talented Hugo Gimenez, out through suspension.

City remain unbeaten at home and have not conceded a goal at Hindmarsh in their last three.

Known as the entertainers of the league, both sides should produce a classic match for the fans, with City starting as narrow favourites.

Wollongong Macedonia have the daunting task of hosting league leaders Melbourne Croatia this weekend.

Despite only one win in their last four away from home, Melbourne Croatia under a new coach Ken Worden, and with George Hannah back from suspension should be too good for the home side.

Macedonia have only one win to date and have scored just three goals in five matches at Brandon Park.

If the Croatia machine gets rolling, the home side could be in for their biggest hiding to date.

In other matches, Sunshine may bounce back to down improving St George at home, while Apia should take the points when they host Wollongong City.

Quit
NATIONAL
SOCCER
LEAGUE

PLAYER AWARDS

Preston v Apia L'hardt

- 3 Spink (P)
- 2 Jolevski (P)
- 1 Jackson (P)

Heidelberg v Sth Melbourne

- 3 McDowall (H)
- 2 Oliver (H)
- 1 Durakovic (SMH)

Melb Croatia v Adelaide City

- 3 Caleta (MC)
- 2 Awaritefe (MC)
- 1 Kelic (MC)

W'gong City v Sunshine GC

- 3 Kuc (WC)
- 2 Green (WC)
- 1 Hunter (SGC)

Melita Eagles v Syd Olympic

- 3 Callinan (M)
- 2 Nowicki (M)
- 1 Bernal (SO)

St George v Sydney Croatia

- 3 Illic (SG)
- 2 Filan (SG)
- 1 Franken (SC)

Marconi v Woll Macedonia

- 3 McCulloch (M)
- 2 Okon (M)
- 1 P Wilson (WM)

PLAYER POINTS

- 15: J. Filan (StG)
- 13: Stubbins (H)
- 11: Petkovic (Syd Cr), Bundalo (Apia)
- 10: Biskic (MC), Krslovic (SC), Ivanovic (AC), McDowall (H), McCulloch (M)
- 9: Ironside (SO), Kindner (Sun)
- 8: Stewart (Ap), C. Foster (Sun), Lowe (Mar), Jackson (P), D. Wilson (WM), P. Okon (M), Spink (P)

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Drawn Greek derby attracts big crowd

BY GREG BLAKE

FURIOUS South Melbourne Hellas coach, Ferenc Puskas, was hardly veiled with his criticisms of match referee Dennis Voutsinis after seeing his side twice pegged back in a 2-2 draw against Heidelberg at Olympic Village yesterday.

One of the biggest crowds of the season saw struggling Heidelberg hit back after looking down and out against the league leader, but Puskas was angry at what he considered an overly physical display by the home side.

"What we saw was out of this world," said Puskas.

"It was dangerous and there was no-one out there to stop it."

"It was a disgrace".

But even given that it was as tough and tense as any local derby might be expected to be Heidelberg, with Garry McDowall, Alan Scott and Willie Herd back in the line-up, covered itself in glory with an impressive comeback.

Hellas, which held sway in the opening half, took a deserved 39th minute lead when Mick Petersen volleyed home in spectacular fashion from 20 metres.

But Heidelberg, showing some exciting attacking flair, levelled 10 minutes after the break when the Hellas defence was drawn into a goalmouth scramble and the ball popped clear to an unmarked Stuart Stevenson who made no mistake from the edge of the box.

Referee Voutsinis, who has clearly had better days, was involved



South Melbourne players certainly know how to celebrate a goal!

in the first major controversy of the afternoon when he awarded Hellas a penalty in the 65th minute.

Paul Trimboli, with his back to goal, was ruled to have had his jersey pulled by three yellow shirted players hot on his tail and Paul Wade duly netted from the penalty spot.

But Heidelberg was back on terms five minutes later compliments of another controversial goal as Angie Goutzoulis looked to have controlled a long ball with his left arm before he turned and sent it to allow Terry Rizopolous to make it 2-2 from close range.

Despite its territorial advantage Hellas were held in check by a defensive combination led by McDowall and former Soccerroo goalie Jeff Oliver.

Oliver was in spectacular form with his best stop of the day as he dived the wrong way to stop a header from Michael Michalakopoulos and then turned to scramble back as the ball threatened to roll over the line.

Heidelberg coach Len McKendry was less conscious of the physical nature of the game

and preferred to praise his charges for their effort in the big derby match.

"It was one of our best results to come from behind twice", said the Heidelberg coach.

"It was particularly pleasing in view of the difficulty we have had in scoring in recent weeks".

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 8, Bratten 6, McDowall 8, Onalakis 7, Scott 6, Stubbias 7, Herd 8, Stevenson 7, Goutzoulis 5, Slifkas 4 (Bordignon 46m 5), Rizopolous 5.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: MacLaren 6, Healy 5, Postecoglou 5, Duracovic 8, Blair 7, Wade 7, Michalakopoulos 5, Petersen 6, Trimboli 6, Wright 5, Tsolakis 5.

SCORERS: Stevenson 55, Rizopolous 70 (Heidelberg); Petersen 39, Wade (pen) 65 (South Melbourne).

YELLOW CARDS: Herd, Stevenson, McDowall, Scott, Goutzoulis (Heidelberg); Postecoglou, Wade (Souths).

REFEREE: D.Voutsinis 4.
CROWD: 10,200.



Tony Vidmar slips the ball past Sunshine keeper Sean Keogh earlier this year. Photo JANUSZ KAMMA.

Saints end drought

BY ROBERT GALVAN

ST GEORGE ended a 10-week losing streak and lifted themselves off the bottom of the table with a 2-0 win over Sydney Croatia at St George Stadium last night.

Andy Harper sealed the win in the fifth minute of injury time when he coolly slid the ball home from 10 metres after good work from striker Zoran Ilic.

Croatia missed a hat-trick of chances and could not complain about the shock result.

Matt Bingley gave the Saints the lead with a simple goal after 11 minutes which owed much to the blustery conditions and the quick thinking of Saints keeper John Filan.

His clearance carried the full length of the pitch and Bingley took full advantage of some hesitancy in the Croatia defence.

Defenders Ned Zelic and Velimir Kupresak allowed the ball to bounce and Bingley beat the advancing Tony Franken to the ball and sent a looping header into an empty net from 10 metres.

The striker paid the price for his bravery and was forced to limp off the field eight minutes later with a leg injury he picked up in the collision.

St George old boy Tony Krslovic almost brought the scores level after 20 minutes with a snap shot from 20 metres which was tipped over by keeper John Filan.

Krslovic, the prolific striker, squandered another chance in the

33rd minute when he was put through by defender Ned Zelic for a free run on goal.

But the burly striker hesitated, and this allowed Filan to smother his weak effort from 12 metres.

Croatia dominated the second half, making full use of the strong wind at their back to launch a succession of attacks.

St George absorbed the pressure well and relied on the pace of Zoran Ilic to mount a series of breaks which stretched the Croatia defence.

Defender Andy Koczka broke forward to run 35 metres unchallenged before smashing a long range shot which Tony Franken did well to push over.

Croatia continued to create and squander their chances with Krslovic the main culprit.

He brought the best out of John Filan who made a series of five saves.

The pick of them came on 83 minutes when he took off to tip over a stinging shot from Krslovic which was headed for the top corner.

ST GEORGE: Filan 8, Milicevic 6, Longo 6, Moffitt 6, Koczka 6, O'Shea 8, Harper 7, Katovic 7 (Baillie 92m), Bingley (El Al 19m 5), Ilic 8, Colaguri 5.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken 8, Carter 5, Popovic 5, Zelic 6, Kupresak 6, Runje 5 (Koch 64), Petkovic 6, Stanton 5 (Grbevski 64m), Alcoy 7, Lamond 5, Krslovic 6.

SCORERS: Bingley 11m, Harper 95m (StG).

YELLOW CARDS: Kupresak 32m (SC); O'Shea



CRAIG MOFFITT

68m, Ilic 76m (StG).
REFEREE: G. Power 7.
CROWD: 2,498.

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Sydney Olympic's Robbie Ironside takes a tumble in yesterday's 1-0 loss to Melita Eagles.



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

The Queensland Soccer Federation wishes to appoint a Director of Coaching for the Brisbane and West Moreton area.

Applicants must possess at least ASF level III accreditation.

The successful applicant will join an existing group of Regional coaches in Queensland, working under the control of the State Director of Coaching.

All applications would be considered for any other vacancies that may occur throughout the state.

Duties include:

- Maintenance and improvement of coaching standards in the area.
- Identification and development of talented youth players.
- Development of the code at primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

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The Secretary,
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Fletcher off, then Marconi win easily

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

THE dramatic dismissal of Wollongong Macedonia striker Graeme Fletcher one minute into the second half proved to be the major turning point as Marconi came back from a goal down to win an entertaining match 3-1 with a David Seal hat-trick at Bossley Park last night.

An impressive Wollongong looked capable of causing an upset during a first half in which they took the lead and more than matched their classy opponents.

But the costly mistake by Fletcher and an inspired display by Seal, which put him back on top of the goal scoring chart, combined to lift Marconi to what, at the end, turned out to be a comfortable victory.

Macedonia looked full of confidence as they kicked off against a strong wind following their first ever NSL win last week under former coach Casey de Bruin.

They pushed forward in numbers, causing the Marconi defence some anxious moments in a surprisingly open first quarter of an hour.



DAVID SEAL — another hat-trick.

When Fletcher found himself completely unmarked near the penalty spot and connected with a Zeljko Jurin cross, Macedonia took a shock lead after 18 minutes.

Marconi, however, responded immediately with a series of attacks and came close on two occasions before getting back on level terms within four minutes.

Tom McCulloch sent David Seal for a simple tap in from no more than five metres.

Zlatko Nastevski must have cursed his luck in the 35th minute when he saw his sharp header from a McCulloch near post cross come crashing back off the upright, denying him his first goal of the season.

The second half exploded onto a sensational start with the sending off of Fletcher by referee Bob Davies for a late high challenge on Mark Jones within 60 seconds of the restart.

No sooner had the commotion died down

then Nastevski again had his 15-metre screamer hit the underside of the crossbar and Macedonia keeper Peter Wilson pulled off a miraculous double save from first McCulloch and then Jones in a matter of seconds.

Marconi's numerical advantage was gradually beginning to turn into total domination as Seal put them ahead in the 64th minute, then completed his second hat-trick of the season six minutes later.

The youngster clinically finished off with a low shot after picking up a ball nodded down to him by captain Steve Calderan for his second, then repeated the effort when a dummy from Lowe caught the Macedonian defence completely flat-footed.

MARCONI: Catlin 7, Wheatley 7, de Marigny 7, Calderan 6, Okon 6, Gray 6, McCulloch 6, Jones 6 (Markovski 76), Seal 7, Nastevski 6 (Katholou 60), Lowe 7.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Wilson 8, Cavanah 8, Dunn 6, Dimov 6, Bourke 6, Kay 6, Sandy 7, Markovski 6 (Cabal 45m, Beclnovski 75m), Jurin 6, Fletcher (sent off 45m), Thornthwaite 6.

SCORERS: Seal 22m, 64m, 78m (M); Fletcher 18m (WM).

RED CARD: Fletcher 46m (WM).

REFEREE: R. Davies 5.

CROWD: 3,456.



Melbourne Croatia surge to the top of the league

BY PAUL KLARIC



FRANCIS AWARITEFE — scored a splendid goal.

MELBOURNE Croatia went to the top of the NSL ladder with a convincing 3-0 win over Adelaide City at Melbourne Croatia's Sport Centre on Sunday.

Croatia led 1-0 at halftime after striker Francis Awaritefe scored and went further ahead after the break when Awaritefe and fellow striker Ivan Kelic found the net.

The win was a triumph for new Croatia coach Ken Worden who was appointed last week and who said he was proud to be associated with a team displaying so much commitment.

By contrast City coach Zoran Matic was disappointed with the meek nature of his team's showing.

"They destroyed us — we were like a herd of sheep among a pack of lions," Matic said.

The blustery conditions impaired the skill level for both teams and neither goalkeeper was severely tested for the first 30 minutes.

Melbourne Croatia looked more fluent and

began putting pressure on City goalkeeper Robert Zabica who in the 39th minute punched a relatively harmless ball out to the waiting Alan Davidson.

From 25 metres Davidson tried an ambitious shot which he mis-cued to Awaritefe who with a crisp volley hit the underside of the crossbar and goaled.

The wind grew in strength in the second half and slightly favoured City but early build-ups from midfield were squandered by striker Steve Maxwell and midfielder Joe Mullen.

Croatia worked well into the wind with low balls and early but difficult chances fell to Awaritefe and Kelic which were not converted.

In the 58th minute Awaritefe tried to score from outside the penalty area but his shot found Joe Caleta who ran deep and crossed back to Awaritefe, who again found the underside of the crossbar to score.

City's defence was continually exposed and by contrast Croatia's back four were under

little pressure and used freedom to instigate further attacks.

Defender Mark Talajic created his team's third goal in the 73rd minute when he ran unchecked through midfield, drew out Zabica and crossed to Kelic on the right who slammed the ball between Zabica and the right post to score.

Croatia's confidence grew and captain Joe Biskic tried an ambitious shot in the 80th minute from 25 metres, while City's closest attempt came from defender Tony Vidmar in the 85th minute.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 5, Davidson 7, Marth 6, Selamidis 6, Talajic 8, Donnelly 6, Milosevic 5, Biskic 7, Caleta 7, Kelic 7, Awaritefe 7.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 5, Shillabeer 5, T Vidmar 6, Ivanovic 6, White 5, Mella 6, Veart 5 (Barbaro 63), Csoboth 4, Mullen 5, Maxwell 4, A Vidmar 4.

SCORERS: Awaritefe 39m, 58m Kelic 73m (MC).

YELLOW CARDS: Kelic 63m (MC), Mella 65m (AC).

REFEREE: C. Bambridge 7.

CROWD: 3,000 (approx).

HAVE YOUR SAY . . .

OUR man at various NSL matches in NSW, Stephen Oldridge, is there specially to collect a cross section of ideas from some important people — the members of the soccer public.

He is identifiable by his media badge, and will be glad to obtain your views on the progress of the game.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY will then print a selection of the pointers that he has obtained.

What are your ideas to advance the great game of soccer football? Tell them to Stephen Oldridge, as he moves to various grounds.

ANOTHER HIGHLY READABLE ASW FEATURE

OVER the past few weeks I have received many views, the majority of which have not been good.

Which brings me to the conclusion that our target market is not being satisfied.

What's your view?

Jacob: Correct me if I am wrong, but weren't some of the kick-off times changed during the week?

That sort of thing is disastrous and does not happen in other sports.

That's why rugby league is so popular and we are not.

Game times must be set and not changed mid-week.

Helen and Gary: What more can you ask for? Sydney Croatia demoralised the opposition. The crowd was enthusiastic, and the weather great. We enjoyed a great day of soccer.

Joseph: I don't come to many games because the whole NSL set-up is too political and amateurish.

What it needs is a good marketing and PR man.

Just have a look at the media reports.

They generally only tell you about soccer's bad points, like riots etc.

Saad sent off in fiery NSL return

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MELITA Eagles, the NSL's red hot ball-playing outfit, scored a sensational 1-0 victory in searing heat over Sydney Olympic last night at Melita Stadium in front of 5622 highly excited spectators.

Olympic, however, were severely handicapped when nine minutes into the second half their recently returned from Singapore striker Abbas Saad was red-carded for violent conduct on Melita's midfielder and sole goalscorer Andrew Callinan.

In a 50-50 challenge a heated Saad lashed out and referee Gordon Dunster was left with no alternative but to reach in his pocket and pull out the red.

Scott Ollerenshaw, who came on as early as the ninth minute to replace Grant Lee, who went off with a swollen right ankle, hit a 35-metre screamer with his left boot but the rocketing drive crashed into the crossbar.

Melita's star midfielder Jarek Nowicki was taken off in the 63rd minute by his coach Raul Blanco for disciplinary reasons and replaced by Anthony Parison.

From that moment Olympic regained confidence and some control of the battle.

In the 20th minute, however, Melita should have had a penalty for a hand-ball offence by captain Robbie Hooker.

Twelve minutes from full-time Olympic looked like salvaging a league point when right defender Dave Barrett unleashed a 'bomb' from 38 metres but once again goalkeeper Alex McPherson was in no Christmas, philanthropic mood and denied Barrett joy.

After the match Blanco said: "We played very well and our defenders especially showed great discipline. It is nice for a change to gain maximum points after playing so well, but that has not always been the case in weeks gone by."

An understandably dejected Olympic coach Mick Hickman commented: "Saad will be heavily fined obviously."

"The red card killed us and we only played well in the second half."

Melita's midfield of Callinan, Nowicki, Cerro and the perpetual motion Gunning, were magnificent with their scheming destruction of Olympic.

The first half ended with Melita leading 1-0.

Melita, by far the better organised side, should in fact have gone in at half time with possibly a two or three-goal lead.

Melita's midfielder Andy Callinan opened the score in the 20th minute with a powerful



Action flowed thick and fast in Sunday's thriller at Melita Stadium.

header from a corner taken on the right by right midfielder Jarek Nowicki.

Sydney Olympic's recently returned striker from Singapore, Abbas Saad, surprisingly was rushed into the side at the last minute when regular striker Jason Bennett missed selection with an injury.

Saad had his first shot for Olympic as early as in the sixth minute when he attempted a 25 metre-cream puff drive that went wide of the

right post.

Melita's fiery former Soccerroo striker Marshall Soper scored a perfectly legitimate goal in the 34th minute from close range after meeting a diagonal slicing ball into the box by fellow striker Greg Brown, but referee Gordon Dunster inexplicably disallowed the goal after first signalling that it was a goal.

It appeared that Dunster reversed his decision on a report from his linesman that Olympic captain and left full-

back Robbie Hooker had impeded Soper's progress.

Melita, without star midfielder Hugo Gimenez (suspended), were far better organised in coming forward with their midfield of Callinan, Nowicki, Cerro and Gunning outplaying Sydney Olympic.

Sydney Olympic suffered an early setback when right midfielder Grant Lee was forced to leave the field in the ninth minute with an injured right leg and was promptly replaced by striker Scott Ollerenshaw.

Olympic's only threat on the target in the first session came in the 27th minute when veteran striker Kevin Hagan unleashed a 25-metre "dipper" that was brilliantly blocked by Melita goalkeeper Alex McPherson.

OLYMPIC: Gosling 8, Burett 6, Bernal 7, Spyridakos 7, Hooker 6, Lee (Ollerenshaw 9th) 6, Phillips 7, Ironside 7, Retenes 6, Saad 5, Hagan 7.

MELITA: McPherson 7, Falzon 6, Barrios (Rezo 52nd) 6, Gonzalez 6, O'Donnell 7, Nowicki 7 (Parison 63rd), Callinan 8, Cerro 7, Gunning 7, Brown 6, Soper 7.

YELLOW CARDS: O'Donnell 14th, Gonzalez 46th for Melita.

RED CARDS: Saad 54th for Sydney Olympic.

REFEREE: G. Dunster 5.

CROWD: 5622.

Wolves bite hard

BY LEN CHAFER

WOLLONGONG City were back on the winning trail when they demolished Sunshine George Cross 3-0 at Brandon Park yesterday.

The opening goal came in the 25th minute when David Green gave a short ball to Miladin Kuc on the edge of the penalty area, and Kuc, playing his first match in six weeks after an injury, turned his marker both ways before sending over a neat cross which Pat Brodnik headed into the net for Wolves' first goal.

But Kuc scored himself in the 79th minute when Hollifield sent over a free kick from the left and Lloyd headed the ball on for Kuc to score with a glancing header from close range.

Hollifield and Lloyd were involved again with the next goal two minutes later when Hollifield took a long throw from the left and the ball came into the penalty area. Lloyd took the ball on his chest, then hit the ball first time into the corner of the net from about six metres to put the Wolves three up.

Sunshine George Cross with the wind in their backs had the better of the first half with Derek Hunter and Damian Mori running well



PAT BRODNIK

with the ball.

Sunshine came close to scoring themselves in the 7th minute when Kindtner had a good chance on the left hand side of the penalty area after being put through by Mori but his hurried shot went straight to the goalkeeper.

Di Amicis had a good run down the right flank in the 14th minute and put in a perfect cross for Hunter but he miskicked when in a perfect position in front of goal.

Hunter was dominant again when he weaved his way through the defence and put the ball forward to Mori whose shot went high over the bar.

In the 57th minute Foster for Sunshine hit a

free kick 20 metres out direct for goal but Tony Pezzano, making his debut for Wollongong, made a brilliant save to tip the ball over the bar.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Pezzano 6, Green 8, Hollifield 6, Morlando 6, Yankos 6, Ratcliffe 6, Cahut 7, Lloyd 7, Bate 5 (Farmer 55m), Brodnik 5 (Hristovski 75m), Kuc 8.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Talla 6, Di Amicis 5, Roodhouse 5, Waddell 6, Ketsakidis 5, Foster 6, Kindtner 5 (Hasler 46m 5), Hunter 8, Mori 7, Clarkson 6, Cranney 5 (Fabrizio 75m).

SCORERS: Brodnik 25m, Kuc 79m, Lloyd 81m (WC).

YELLOW CARDS: Ratcliffe 8m (WC), Hasler 71m (SGC).

REFEREE: P. Spiers 6.

CROWD: 1995.

Spink on target

BY DAVID BULLOCK

PRESTON Macedonia bounced back from their shock defeat to Sunshine George Cross last weekend to completely demolish a lacklustre Apia side 2-0 at Connor Reserve yesterday.

The star for Preston was striker Warren Spink who resumed after a two-week absence due to an ankle injury.

He turned in a near-perfect performance and completely unsettled the Apia defence all afternoon.

Spink had a major hand in the opening goal and then scored the second in the brilliant fashion which has made him one of the most lethal goal scorers in the National League.

Against the run of play Preston opened the scoring in the 16th minute.

A neat layoff by Spink inside the penalty area found George Jolevski on the edge of the area and with a thumping shot the ball found the top left hand corner.

Four minutes later Preston came close to

increasing their lead when Shaun Parton's header went centimetres wide of the right post from a dangerous Spink cross.

In the 29th minute Robby Markovac was denied from giving Preston their second goal when Apia keeper Brett Hughes made a fine save to deny a thumping shot from 15 metres.

As Preston continued to mount the pressure they were rewarded in the 39th minute when Spink once again caused the damage.

Making a brilliant solo run, Spink played a one-two with Kris Trajanovski and then finished off the work to brilliantly chip keeper Hughes and place the ball in the back of the net.

Preston opened the second half from where they left off in the first and came close to scoring three times in the opening 10 minutes.

In the 49th minute Spink made an enterprising attempt on goal and he shot from 10 metres but missed narrowly with the Apia defence standing flat-footed.

Two minutes later, a long through ball from George Petrov was collected by Spink who, with only the keeper to beat, was thwarted by a despairing dive by Hughes.

In the 54th minute Preston strong man Markovac made a brilliant solo run and his shot on goal went sailing centimetres over the crossbar with the Apia keeper well beaten.

The match suddenly turned around and Apia tried to get back into the game but all their repeated attacks were thwarted by a close knit and tight Preston defence.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes 6, Roodhouse 6, Jolevski 7, Jackson 7, Parton 6, Petrov 6, Zinni 6, Trajanovski 6, Spink 9, Spanevski 6, R Markovac 6.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Hughes 6, Blagojevic 5, Jennings 5, Stewart 5, Maloney 4 (Okon 46m 5), Clinch 5, Ellem 5, Gomez 5, McFadden 5, Bundalo 6, Brown 4 (Lemecina 59m).

SCORERS: Jolevski 16m, Spink 39m for Preston.

REFEREE: M. Ingham 7.

CROWD: 2,500.
3 Spink 2 Jolevski 1 Jackson (PM).

QUIT NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



WEEKEND
FIXTURES

ROUND 13



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS v ST GEORGE BSC
Skinner Reserve 6pm

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v MARCONI
Middle Park 6pm

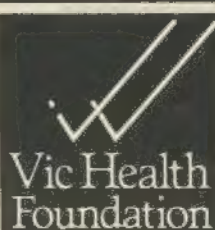
SYDNEY CROATIA v HEIDELBERG UNITED
Croatian Spts C 6pm

APIA LEICHHARDT v WOLLONGONG CITY
Lambert Park 6pm

ADELAIDE CITY v MELITA EAGLES
Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA v MELBOURNE CROATIA
Brandon Park 6pm

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v PRESTON MAKEDONIA
St George Stadium 7pm



Ansett.



Chit Chat ... Chit Chat ... Chit Chat

WOLLONGONG CITY WOLVES — THE 1990/91 SQUAD



Wollongong City secretary John Vlietstra says the appointment of a marketing and promotions officer is the club's first priority after the Wolves clinched a five-year sponsorship with steel giant BHP worth \$100,000 a year.

Did you know that Tony Krslovic is also an excellent cricketer?

The NSL's leading goal scorer was quite a handy player in the senior Parramatta (NSW) district competition against players much older than him.

Krslovic, meanwhile, has one more year to go in his business tech course.

Melita Eagles striker Greg Brown, a former New Zealand in-

The Wollongong City 1990/91 squad. See page 2 for Keith Gilmour's story on the club's big BHP sponsorship.

ternational, told our Kiwi colleagues from the excellent "New Zealand Soccer Express", that playing in Australia has meant he had to be more of a team player.

"It's a different type of game from New Zealand and is a lot more organised," he says.

"You have got to be more careful and skilful to get past defences in the Australian National League."

Former New Zealand international Kevin Hagan is looking to return to New Zealand next year. The injury-prone Sydney Olympic striker-cum-midfielder says he always thought he would like to come back to New Zealand to play.

Hagan left in 1987 to join Sydney City but they folded almost immediately and he went on to St George, Apia and now Olympic.

Former SBS and Channel Nine presenter George Donikian has declined an offer from ABC-TV to host their NSL "Big Match" programme, now fronted by John Bell.

South Melbourne Hellas will have to make do without star striker Kimon Taliadoros for another two weeks at least. The Soccerroo striker is suffering from damaged medial ligaments in his right knee.

Marconi skipper Steve Calderan reached a milestone against Adelaide City two weeks ago — it was his 200th NSL appearance. Branko Milosevic (Melbourne Croatia) and Andrew Marth, also of Melbourne Croatia, for their part have now chalked up 100 NSL games.

St George veteran Mike O'Shea has seen it all before and says he is not unduly worried about his team's precarious position in the NSL standings.

He won't hear of relegation, pointing out that some years back Saints were in even worse shape, yet came through in the home stretch.

O'Shea, incidentally, has 12 Soccerroo appearances to his credit and remains a mainstay of the St George defence.

West Australian Stan Lazaridis will not be joining Preston. He is injured and will be out of action for months. A candidate for Young Soccerroo selection, Lazaridis was expected to join Preston after completing his university course.

Former Brisbane Lions coach Juan Cutillas is the hot tip to take over as coach of Croatian-backed Victorian State League side St Albans.

Billy Rogers is the new coach of Brunswick Juventus. Rogers, last season's Juve reserve team coach, replaces Terry Hennessey.

Melbourne Croatia lost its case against former coach Ante Grgic and has to pay \$4000 in compensation. Grgic was awarded the money by a tribunal hearing in Melbourne. The Croatian coach is likely to head home this week.

Home ground advantage is having a big say in the NSL title race thus far this season.

To the end of round 11 half the teams in the league still have yet to be conquered on their home turf.

Adelaide City, Marconi, Melbourne Croatia, Preston Makedonia, South Melbourne Hellas, Sydney Croatia and Sydney Olympic are all yet to be beaten at home.

It is no coincidence that all but Olympic are well placed in the top half of the table.

SA PLAYER Graham Latham looks on the verge of being offered contract terms by English First Division side Coventry City.

The Salisbury and former State midfielder has had trials with a selection of clubs but Coventry looks favoured to sign him if he can weather the bitterly cold English winter.

Is Marconi's less than

Players, coaches, clubs on notice following Rogers case judgment

BY KEITH GILMOUR

PROVIDED that the Steve Rogers case is not appealed and the verdict changed, it will stand as a beacon for fair play in all contact sports.

Rogers, a rugby league player, was awarded \$68,154 damages resulting from an injury which broke his jaw in March, 1985.

He sued a Canterbury Bankstown player, Mark Bugden, and the club, and both were held liable by Mr Justice Lee in the NSW Supreme Court.

Rogers claimed that Bugden intentionally brought his arm across Rogers' face, breaking his jaw.

The judge referred to Rogers' right to have the game played according to the rules.

Reports indicate he did not conclude that

the coach, Warren Ryan, ordered that Rogers be "taken out" of the game.

He said that Ryan had given instructions to his players to prevent Rogers "using his talents to the full."

The judgment has a deal of meaning to soccer players who might deliberately injure an opponent.

This would also apply to any coach who ordered his players to injure an opponent, and their clubs in turn will be forced to see that players and coaches concentrate on skill and fair play as opposed to dirty play.

The rules of Association Football have been drawn to ensure that the accent is on skill, rather than brutality.

Tackling in accordance with the Laws of the Game is well defined, and designed to ensure safe practices.

Joe Mirabella has resigned as president of Brunswick Juventus and he has been replaced by Maria Carmigniana.

Victorian Premier League newcomer Oakleigh has appointed former Melbourne JUST coaching legend Cedo Cirkovic as first team boss for 1991.

Adelaide City are keen to sign Adelaide Hellas Olympian Mark Brazzale to replace injured Ernie Tapai.

BYE, TOM

It's farewell to Tom Anderson, the "Daily Mirror" soccer writer.

Tom retired after 20 years on the job last Friday.

Happy retirement, Tom.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

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—Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is Thursday morning of the WEEK PRIOR to issue date.

Vics off to Argentina



This is the Centro Argentino De Victoria under 12 side which is set to fly out of Melbourne on January 2 to commence a trip of a lifetime.

The junior side, coached by Humberto Navarro, is off to compete in the 'Mondialto of Juniors' in Rio Negro, Argentina.

The Victorian side is being hosted by the 'Circulo Italiano Villa Regina' and it will play matches against the Pico club (Argentina) on January 5, Estrellas (Guatemala) on January 6 and the Circulo Italiano Villa Regina club on January 7.

We wish the Victorian side the best of luck.

Back row — Diaz, Cardonne, Caniglia, Zois, Navarro, Albarenque, Pezzano, Vega, Grella.

Front row — Maizano, Pino, Vruttia, Maiolo, Valenzuela, Di Fiore, Ciccio, Vargas.

SOCCER POOLS

THE POOLS

Get your Pools in!

It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 282
SAT. 22nd DECEMBER, 1990

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 10/12/90 — WEEK 280

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED												NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED													
1	32	2	36	3	42	4	21	5	35	6	51	7	37	8	53	9	0	0	13	4	5	7	6	6	3
9	48	60	57	60	50	54	15	56	16	51	17	10	1	12	13	14	0	15	0	16	1	17	18	1	
17	57	49	40	20	21	54	22	23	24	25	53	26	18	3	19	20	21	0	22	23	24	25	26	1	
25	52	26	58	56	66	29	37	38	39	57	35	4	3	13	0	4	30	31	32	33	34	35	2		
33	59	63	74	57	60							36	4	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	0	
Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools																									

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF
WEEK 282 SAT 22 DECEMBER, 1990

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):
8, 12, 15, 22, 28, 29.
Supplementary Number: 34.

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 283
SAT. 29th DECEMBER, 1990

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	ARSENAL	SHEFF. UTD.	1
	COVENTRY	NORWICH	2
	EVERTON	DERBY	3
	LEEDS	WIMBLEDON	4
	LUTON	CHELSEA	5
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	MAN. UNITED	ASTON VILLA	6
	SOUTHAMPTON	TOTTENHAM	7
	BLACKBURN	OXFORD UTD.	8
	BRIGHTON	LEICESTER	9
	BRISTOL C.	MIDDLESBRO	10
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	HULL	BARNLEY	11
	IPSWICH	CHARLTON	12
	MILLWALL	OLDHAM	13
	NEWCASTLE	NOTTS. C.	14
	PLYMOUTH	BRISTOL R.	15
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	SHEFF. WED.	PORTSMOUTH	16
	WATFORD	SWINDON	17
	WEST BROM.	WOLVES	18
	WEST HAM	PORT VALE	19
	BIRMINGHAM	BOLTON	20
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	BOURNEMOUTH	LEYTON O.	21
	BURY	PRESTON	22
	CAMBRIDGE U.	GRIMSBY	23
	CREWE	BRENTFORD	24
	FULHAM	CHESTER	25
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	READING	MANSFIELD	26
	ROTHERHAM	TRANMERE	27
	SHREWSBURY	EXETER	28
	STOKE	HUDDERSFIELD	29
	WIGAN A.	SWANSEA	30
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	ALDERSHOT	PETERBORO	31
	BLACKPOOL	LINCOLN	32
	CARDIFF	HALIFAX	33
	CHESTERFIELD	STOCKPORT	34
	DONCASTER	HEREFORD	35
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	GILLINGHAM	NORTHAMPTON	36
	HARTLEPOOL	WALSALL	37
	ROCHDALE	MAIDSTONE	38
	SCARBORO	DARLINGTON	39
	SCUNTHORPE	CARLISLE	40
ENGLISH DIVISION 9	TORQUAY	BURNLEY	41
	WREXHAM	YORK	42
	LEEK	DROYLSDEN	43
	MATLOCK	WITTON A.	44
	SOUTHPORT	MORECAMBE	45
ENGLISH DIVISION 10	STALYBRIDGE	SHEPHERD	46
	ABERDEEN	ST. MIRREN	47
	CELTIC	HEARTS	48
	DUNDEE U.	RANGERS	49
	HIBERNIAN	ST. JOHNSTONE	50
ENGLISH DIVISION 11	MOTHERWELL	DUNFERMLINE	51
	AIRDRIE	PARTICK	52
	AYR	MORTON	53
	BRECHIN	CLYDEBANK	54
	CLYDE	KILMARNOCK	55

RESERVE MATCHES

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	SCARBORO	DARLINGTON	39
	SCUNTHORPE	CARLISLE	40
	TORQUAY	BURNLEY	41
	WREXHAM	YORK	42
	LEEK	DROYLSDEN	43
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	MATLOCK	WITTON A.	44
	SOUTHPORT	MORECAMBE	45
	STALYBRIDGE	SHEPHERD	46
	ABERDEEN	ST. MIRREN	47
	CELTIC	HEARTS	48
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	DUNDEE U.	RANGERS	49
	HIBERNIAN	ST. JOHNSTONE	50
	MOTHERWELL	DUNFERMLINE	51
	AIRDRIE	PARTICK	52
	AYR	MORTON	53
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	BRECHIN	CLYDEBANK	54
	CLYDE	KILMARNOCK	55

* Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.



For Past Results and Historical Data on The Pools, write to: T.M.S. P.O. Box 2937 DD GPO Melbourne 3001. Or Phone (03) 328 3345.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — DECEMBER 24, 1990

Colo Colo Capers



Before the match between the Australian under 17 Joeys and Colo Colo at the Colo Colo Stadium in Santiago, Chile, ASW caught up with Universidad Catolica youth coach Raul Fernandez, Nuno Barroso, cameraman Jose Mariano, John Crowley, the Australian goalkeeper now on the books of Colo Colo, ASW's John Warren, Aerolineas Argentinas executive Jaime Gomez and the ASF's David Williams.

Joeys' Oceania schedule

FRESH from their triumphant tour of South America, the under 17 Joeys now have their sights on a berth in the World Cup in Ecuador next July/August.

They must first, however, win the Oceania qualifying tournament in New Zealand next month.

The Joeys will be opposed to New Zealand, Papua-New

Guinea, Tahiti and Fiji in Napier.

The five-nation series kicks off on Saturday, January 12 and ends on Sunday, January 20.

This is the Joeys' programme:

9-11 January	: Arrival of participating teams
11 January	: Managers' meeting Technical meetings
12 January Saturday	: 3.30pm Opening Ceremony 4.30pm Australia v Papua New Guinea 6.30pm New Zealand v Tahiti
13 January Sunday	: Rest Day
14 January Monday	: 4.30pm New Zealand v Papua New Guinea 6.30pm Fiji v Tahiti
15 January Tuesday	: Rest Day
16 January Wednesday	: 4.30pm Australia v Tahiti 6.30pm New Zealand v Fiji
17 January Thursday	: Rest Day
18 January Friday	: 4.30pm Tahiti v Papua New Guinea 6.30pm Australia v Fiji 8.30pm Tournament Dinner
19 January Saturday	: Rest Day
20 January Sunday	: 4.30pm Papua New Guinea v Fiji 6.30pm New Zealand v Australia 8.30pm Closing Ceremony
21 January	: Teams depart



NZ funding problems

THE New Zealand FA are looking for a sponsor to finance New Zealand's Olympic campaign.

NZFA chairman Warwick Gendall said the finances were looking "horrible" for next year's Under 23s campaign to qualify for the Olympics, in Barcelona in 1992.

For example, he said, to

take a party of 20 to Papua New Guinea for the November 6 game would cost close to \$50,000 in airfares alone.

The Winfield sponsorship doesn't cover the Under 23s, so the NZFA have to look elsewhere for the sponsorship dollars to fund the whole exercise.

And they can't go to Winfield for an extra sponsorship with the Smoke Free Environ-

ments Bill currently in place.

But the situation has yet to get bad enough for New Zealand to pull out of the qualifiers against Australia, Fiji and PNG, although that may eventually become an option, Gendall said.

The Under 23s' first match is in Australia on May 22.

— courtesy SOCCER EXPRESS, New Zealand.

Robbie Ironside

Olympic's silent hero

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ROBBIE IRONSIDE, Sydney Olympic's powerful New Zealand-born international midfielder, is getting frustrated with Olympic's inability to score goals.

This giant Kiwi is the team's 'silent hero'.

Robbie in reality is a player with the best professional outlook you could find in the NSL.

Ironside's character and attitude adds the much needed steel into Olympic's spine, just as Ian Gray contributes so much to Marconi.

Goals for the current League champions have been at a premium this season.

As we know, it happened again last Sunday week against Apia when despite the fact that Olympic had six times more chances than the Leichhardt side, Apia was leading Olympic 1-0 until the last two minutes.

It was left to Ironside to get Olympic out of jail with a last-minute, spectacular diving header to grab a 1-1 draw.

Ironside told ASW after that match he was getting sick and tired of draws when Olympic was playing the better football.

"We just cannot score goals," he lamented.

"That was our seventh draw in 11 matches.

"Before I scored the equaliser, I myself missed three chances," Ironside confessed.

Such remarks are typical of the player.

Always a battler, Robbie is a fighter with an insatiable appetite for hard work.

But before Ironside criticises himself, let us point a few things out.

ONE — Ironside,

who originally was a centre-back, was signed by Sydney Olympic from New Zealand as a DEFENDER by former coach, Eddie Thomson.

TWO — Ironside has played in every position, but centre-back, and was even fielded as a centre forward to help Sydney Olympic and never complained.

Even worse for the player, two seasons back, when fellow Kiwi and team-mate, goalkeeper Clint Gosling, was injured against Melbourne Croatia, Robbie was the first to volunteer to go between the posts.

He grabbed the gloves for Olympic as Gosling was stretched off the pitch.

THREE — the bulky New Zealander, although a defender for years before coming to Olympic, has scored most valuable goals every year, that are not expected of him.

FOUR — Ironside is the last player to ever complain about injuries.

In fact, the past few weeks he has been playing with a thigh injury, yet keeps pushing himself into battle.

FIVE — he is one of the few Sydney Olympic players that gets very upset if the team loses.



Robbie Ironside in typically forceful action against Andy Koczka.

With Ironside, you cannot get near him as he is boiling hot with anger at a needless loss.

His controlled aggression and unyielding team spirit have gone too long unrecognised and unrewarded.

Have some forgotten already that it was Ironside who scored the second goal for Sydney Olympic in last season's historic grand final from a corner at the Parramatta Stadium?

That Ironside goal ripped the heart out of Marconi and completely destroyed all hopes the defending champions may have had of making a comeback for the title.

An even greater example of Ironside's character and fighting qualities was highlighted two years ago in Auckland.

Although Australia had thrashed New Zealand in Sydney 4-1 in the first leg of a World Cup qualifier, the Kiwis shocked the Socceroos by outwitting them in the return bout.

It was this Kiwi victory which destroyed Frank Arok's Socceroos World Cup hopes.

It was not Israel's 1-1 draw at the Sydney Football Stadium, but Robbie Ironside's magnificent effort in Auckland that killed off Australia's chances.

Last night at the Melita Stadium, it was the same again.

There was the giant, mobile midfielder making crashing runs up the middle with Melita players bouncing off his powerful body.

One minute you'd see Ironside's hulky frame in Melita's box looking to knock into the target anything loose that came his way, and the next minute he's down

the back 'screening' his defenders whilst Olympic is off the ball.

Olympic coach Mick Hickman states that Ironside is a role model.

"You couldn't wish for anyone better," he says.

"His attitude is most healthy and he is a

fierce competitor."

What a pity Sydney Olympic does not have another two or three Robbie Ironsides in their NSL squad...

The player with the Rued Gullit hairdo gone wrong is well and truly Sydney Olympic's silent hero.

OCEANIA LACKS CLOUT

FIFA delegate, New Zealander Charlie Dempsey, has admitted the winner of the Oceania zone faces huge odds against making the 1994 World Cup soccer finals in the US.

Reports last week initially suggested the Oceania winner would play off with the third placed North and Central American zone nation for a place in the finals.

Indications of a rosy path, compared with the last two finals' qualifying routes, have instead been turned into a rocky uphill road.

The winner of Oceania now has to play the CONCACAF runner-up with the victor of that match playing the fourth-placed South American nation for entry to the finals.

Dempsey, Oceania's delegate to the world body, says Oceania does not have enough on — or off-field — influence to get a better deal.

"Oceania does not have the clout or onfield performances to warrant direct entry or an easier path," he says.

Dempsey said he felt for the Australians because of the progress they have made in recent years.

"It must be frustrat-

ing for them, but once you take out Australia as No.1 and New Zealand as No.2 there is not much left in the Oceania zone," he said.

"As it stands it is traumatic, like in the past when New Zealand had to play 45 games to make the final (1982)."

Oceania may have gained a route through Asia had that zone shown sufficient improvement to gain a third place.

"They haven't shown as much improvement as the Africans, leaving them with the status quo of two places," Dempsey said.

"That put Oceania out on limb.

"We need more than just New Zealand to consistently challenge Australia; we need the other six to do it as well," he said.

"That position has not been realised here."

Oceania has been given approximately \$850,000 to develop soccer in the area, particularly the Pacific islands.

"There is no point in kidding ourselves," Dempsey added.

"Simply put, the results have to go on the board if we are to have something of substance to argue our case."

— from AAP

Tasty menu to whet Socceroos' appetite

BY LOU GAUTIER

THERE is a new date for next year's international between Australia and England.

The one-off match will now be played on Saturday night, June 1, and not on June 2 in the afternoon as previously planned.

And the Sydney Football Stadium is the official venue, with the ASF hopeful of a sell-out crowd of 40,000-plus.

Properly promoted, there is no reason why the magnificent stadium should not be packed to the rafters, provided England manager Graham Taylor selects some of his better-known players.

The English tour will also take in Malaysia and, of course, New Zealand.

England's rare visit to this part of the world is to officially celebrate the 100th anniversary of the New Zealand Football Association, and they will play two internationals against the All Whites.

While on the subject of the Kiwis, they want to restore the Trans-Tasman series, last held in November 1988, when Australia won both games.

The Australian Soccer Federation is keen to have the series staged on May 8 and 12 as warm-up games for the England match.

New Zealand also wants to use the Trans-Tasman Cup as a build-up for their tests against England, so the home-and-away competition appears certain to go ahead.

The ASF also announced last week they had accepted South Korea's invitation to compete in the prestigious President's Cup next June.

Although Australia will not have to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals via Asia, that is splendid news.

The President's Cup always attracts a good international field from every continent.

Australia competed in 1987 and reached the final, only to lose in a penalty shoot-out to the host nation, South Korea.

Playing in such a tough competition, with a game almost every second day, undoubtedly paved the way for Frank Arok's Socceroos' excellent results in the following 12 months.

Australia went on to qualify for the Seoul Olympics, where they reached the quarter-finals after eliminating Yugoslavia and Nigeria, only to be ousted by eventual gold medalists, the Soviet Union.



Players like Colombia's Escobar (above) and Alvarez (below) should be amongst the Socceroos' opponents if we are serious about our World Cup chances in 1994.



Let's hope that next year's President's Cup also serves as a launching pad for Eddie Thomson's Socceroos though, of course, this time Australia will be represented by different teams at the Olympics and the World Cup.

With games also scheduled against Czechoslovakia early next year, the Socceroos will truly come out of hibernation in 1991.

The ASF, however, will have to start planning soon for 1992.

That is the vital year before the World Cup qualifiers.

As the national associations of all self-respecting FIFA member countries plan well ahead, up to two years in most cases, now is the time for the ASF to line up the South and Central American opponents the Socceroos must face in 1992.

Since FIFA decided Australia must qualify for the USA through Central, North and South America, these

are the teams the Aussies must compete against in the pre-World Cup qualifying year.

The ASF could either organise a June-July 1992 tour of Central and South America or invite, say, Mexico or Chile for a series of games in Australia.

Not to do so would annul the benefits of next year's healthy, but not all that relevant, Socceroo programme.

EURO-92	
GROUP 1 — SPAIN 9	(Butragueno 4, Munoz 2, Amor, Herro, Bakero) ALBANIA 0 at Sevilla.
GROUP 6 — MALTA 0	HOLLAND 6 (van Basten 5, Bergkamp 2, Winter) at Valletta.
FRIENDLIES: GERMANY 4	(Voller, Riedle, Thom, Matthaus)
SWITZERLAND 0 at Stuttgart;	PORTUGAL 1 (Oliveira) USA 0 at Porto.
GROUP 3 — ITALY 4 (Sorensen 2, Vlierchowod, Lombardo) CYP-RUS 0 at Limassol.	

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Please send donations to your nearest Legacy office.

Olympic's prodigal sons were Singapore idols

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ALISTAIR Edwards and Abbas Saad returned to Sydney last week with fabulous but, more importantly, indelible memories of their five-month stint playing for Singapore in the Dunhill-Malaysian National Soccer League.

The twin strikers hit the Singaporean scene with such an impact that in a matter of weeks they had become well-known media personalities.

The Sydney Olympic strikers scored a massive 25 goals between them to lift Singapore from seventh position in the Malaysian National League to the top and into the final.

As Singapore rapidly climbed up the ladder because of the efforts of the two Australians, Singapore crowds ballooned from an average of 14,000 to 60,000 fans.

Over the last few weeks, both Edwards and Saad had become national heroes.

So much so, that Singapore's president, Mr Wee Kim Wee, invited Saad and Edwards on three occasions to the palace for afternoon tea.

The recently retired Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yu, was also fully aware of Edwards' and Saad's feats.

Special gifts were organised and presented to the two Aussies.

But unfortunately Singapore's dream run came to an abrupt halt. They lost the final 3-1 last Saturday week to Kedah in front of a capacity crowd of 45,000 at the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

Edwards, after a brief stop-over in Sydney to sign a contract with Sydney Olympic, flew out last Thursday night for Perth where he will spend a few days over Christmas with his parents.

He thus missed yesterday's away clash with Melita Eagles.

He will be back in Sydney this Thursday to commence training with Olympic in preparation for Sunday's home clash against Preston at the St George Stadium.

Last night he spoke to ASW.

"We had a fabulous and incredible time in Singapore," Edwards said.

"Singaporeans are fabulously warm people.

"I won the 'Golden Boot Award' for top scoring in the League with 13 goals and Abbas came second with just one goal less.

"We both look forward to starting again with Sydney Olympic.

"In Singapore we were treated like royalty and paid handsomely.



ALISTAIR EDWARDS

"We were both pretty lucky as far as injuries go. I missed four weeks

with an ankle sprain whilst Abbas was out a couple of matches with ankle and groin injuries.

"Everywhere we went we got VIP treatment.

"I even had my own column in a Saturday paper every week.

"Abbas was regarded as Singapore's 'Maradona'.

"We were both signed up on contracts by the sportswear company, Puma, and were used as models in promotional photographs for magazines.

"At this stage I will be going back to Singapore at the end of this current NSL season," Edwards told ASW.

Edwards was one of Sydney Olympic's grand final heroes last season when he scored Olympic's first goal in the opening half to lay the foundations for the shock 2-0 win over hot favourites Marconi.

Sydney Olympic fans, starved this season of goals in the absence of Edwards and Saad, will relish their return this Sunday at the St George Stadium against Preston.



The magnificent ASW/Pascoe Vale Sportscene Trophy, to be awarded to our Player of the Year. The Trophy comes complete with Pascoe Vale Sportscene's cheque for \$500. Last year's winner was rising St George and Olympic Games squad goalkeeper, John Fflan, who is again doing well this season. For a current points update, turn to page 2 — JOE MONTEMURRO Photo.

Gary Bratten responds to McKendry's urgings

BY GREG BLAKE

LEN McKendry can be credited with spotting more than his share of raw talent in his time but even the Heidelberg coach himself must be sitting back and reflecting with some special pride on his decision to pluck utility man Gary Bratten from the relative obscurity of the Victorian State League.

Already Bratten has left a considerable mark on the NSL, particularly in Victoria where he is fast earning the tag of best new NSL player this season.

Team-mate and four NSL club veteran Les Carter goes as far as to rate Bratten the top newcomer of the year.

Yet there was little to suggest that Bratten, who is equally at home in defence, midfield or, as the case had been at State League Caulfield City, up front, was ever going to be an NSL success.

After a none-too-star-studded career with Hull City, Scunthorpe, Lincoln City, Cambridge United, Halifax Town and in non-league English football, the Hull-born 29 year-old finally got his chance to join old mates Andy O'Dell and Phil Stubbins in Melbourne, courtesy of Caulfield.

In his ten-odd State League games hemapped appeared an average player in an average side.

McKendry thought differently and out-jumped Melbourne Croatia the signature of the solidly-built all-rounder.

"I was thrilled to get the chance to join Heidelberg," Bratten told ASW.

"I'd played Dockerty Cup for Caulfield against Melbourne Croatia and they showed a bit of interest at the time so I thought I might go there.

"But Heidelberg signed me first."

Bratten, who'd spent much of his footballing career in the engine-room, admits to having a few reservations about moving to Olympic Village to play a defensive role.

"But if it meant being in the team, then I was grateful to get a place," he reflected.

Bratten kept his place at the back but was afforded a lucky



Gary Bratten, newly signed by Heidelberg from Victorian State League club, Caulfield — Photo: JOE MONTEMURRO.

break at the expense of George Slifkas who, in the early weeks of the new campaign, had bonded well with the brilliant Stubbins in the middle of the park.

Opportunity

When Slifkas dropped out of the side with injury, Bratten moved up from support performer into a starring role.

He hasn't looked back to the extent that in recent weeks Bratten has out-gunned the fiery Stubbins with his contributions.

"It's nice to hear the compliments," he says.

"But I'm still adjusting because it's such a different game here (in the NSL) compared to England or even in the State League.

"The pace of the game is different and I'm finding that I'm getting much more time on the ball.

"Hopefully, when I get adjusted I can improve even further."

Not that he would need too.

Bratten has shown in recent weeks that he has all the guns in the armoury.

He can be brutally rugged, hard-running and aggressive, but he has shown some delicate touches and his ability to open up play with neat passes has opened some eyes to his value.

"I think the better quality players you have around you, the better you tend to play," he explains.

"And Len McKendry has been a great help to me.

"He's magic, really.

"He simplifies things and the players can really relate to him.

"Fortunately, Heidelberg has been great to me as well.

"My family is out here now (wife and two young boys) and hopefully I can make a very long-term commitment to Australian football.

"I love it here — the family is missing some of its friends but the pluses certainly outweigh the minuses.

Worker

Perhaps the secret to Bratten's new-found NSL success can be attributed to the fact that since landing on these shores he has taken nothing for granted in terms of football.

Unlike some higher-profile imports of recent times who have failed to live up to expectations, Bratten has never believed he was a walk-up start even at State League standard.

Too many players from the UK, he says, think they can just come out here and "strut about."

"Usually they are young lads who come out and start to enjoy the good standard of living too much," he explained.

"I've never thought along those lines.

"I think having responsibilities at home makes a difference but right from the start I knew I had to work on making a place for myself in the game here.

"I just thought if I worked hard I could make some decent money out of the game here."

So far Bratten has done just that and gone further than earning just money.

Currently he is earning a reputation as being one of the brightest new faces on the Melbourne scene.

How soccer reached Melbourne air waves

BY DAVID BULLOCK

3AK1503 The Renaissance.

MELBOURNE'S five National League teams and soccer in general were given a much needed shot in the arm recently with the emergence of commercial radio station 3AK's "Super Soccer Sunday Show".

The show, which broadcasts Melbourne's match of the day live each week, has grown from strength to strength since first going to air on October 21.

The live broadcast is complemented by a review show late on Sunday evenings that gives full details of the weekend's matches, invites a guest personality on the show, and also gives listeners a chance to air their opinions on a talk-back segment.

The review show has proved so popular with soccer fans, it has been extended by a delighted 3AK management by an extra half-hour from its original one-hour time slot.

The commentary team, headed by ASW's Greg Blake, is backed up by well credentialed player/coach Sebastian Italia, former Socceroo and Thomastown coach, Kenny Murphy, plus Sun Herald soccer journalist Peter Desira.

ASW spoke to Desira recently about how the concept was first created, and on all the aspects of the show to its present day success story.

"The initiative to begin the show was basically from Italia and Blake who approached 3AK separately. I was then approached by both of them for help on ways the show could be funded", said Desira.

"It was all confidential from both parties until I decided it was pointless them both working against each other, so in the end I approached them and said we should make it a joint effort and try and get the idea going.

"We then approached 3AK management with a package deal of a preview show and a review show, which they were responsive to, but when the idea of a live broadcast was put forward it was knocked on the head due to the expense entailed.

"We then approached the NSL for their backing and they



ASW's GREG BLAKE

promised us their support as long as we could get a live broadcast.

"So we then went back to 3AK to re-negotiate, and after a fair amount of haggling we finally got them to agree to a live broadcast."

With negotiations still to be finalised, money was needed to keep the show alive, so in stepped former Juventus president, Joe Mirabella, a staunch supporter in the progress of soccer who lent his financial muscle by sponsoring the show and tying in the loose ends.

"Joe Mirabella has been crucial in keeping the show ticking over while the negotiations have been going on, and he has been a big factor in us staying on air," explained a grateful Desira.

With the wheels in motion for the first live broadcast the task was set to find a special comments man. Experience and a good knowledge of the game were the main criteria, thus adding a touch of professionalism to the show.

Kenny Murphy was one of a number of names bandied around for the spot, and when approached for the position, he was more than happy to fill the role.

With Murphy on board, the Preston vs Heidelberg clash set the scene for the opening broadcast and nerves were frayed.

"In a way it was a huge burden placed upon us as we had stuck our necks out and we did not want to fail at the first hurdle", explained Desira.

"Not knowing the response to our first broadcast, we were all given a great boost later that evening on the review show, when the phone lines for the talk-back started flowing immediately.

"Since then, the whole team and that includes the stringers have gained in confidence every week.

"The man who has put the gloss on the show with his colourful commentary has been anchorman Greg Blake.

"Blake risked his already well established radio ties to head the team, and Desira is full of praise for the effort and risk he has taken.

"Without Blake the show would not have gone ahead as he had the experience in radio which was needed.

"We had the initial burden of trying to convince him to leave his radio show and go into the unknown.

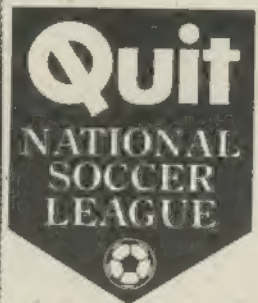
"It was a bit worrying from my point of view that, if we had failed, I would have destroyed his ties with radio, so it's a credit to Greg that he believed in the concept of what we are doing".

The show's success with the general soccer public has caught the eye with administrators, so much so, that the Victorian Soccer Federation has acted quickly to tie up a deal with 3AK for the new Premier League season.

So, thanks to the initiative of three soccer workhorses who really care for the game, soccer in Melbourne is "super" on Sundays.

NEW INFO LINE

ASW's own David Bullock is ready to keep all NSL fans abreast of current events with his new telephone information line.



Bullock, one of Melbourne's new-breed of soccer journalists, has put together an exciting concept in dialling services for soccer fans.

Bullock's 0055 contact line — called the NSL HOTLINE — will provide results, fixtures, news and interviews.

The information line will be up-dated regularly and available to NSL fans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can listen to the NSL HOTLINE by dialling 0055-31731.

— GREG BLAKE

CROATIA COACH

Melbourne Croatia's new coach is Ken Worden.

The 47-year-old Worden was appointed last week and took charge of training for the first time last Thursday night.

He led the side for the first time yesterday for Melbourne Croatia's home game against Adelaide City.

Worden, whose most recent job was at the helm of West Australian side Perth Italia, takes over from the ill-fated Ante Grgic who lost his job at Somers Street after round 8.

English-born Worden has had considerable success in WA having coached Athena to three local State League championship successes.

— GREG BLAKE

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Monday!

Simple tastes can be fun

BY MIKE JOHNSON

WELL, the weekend before last was a good one for me.

I was a not out batsman at cricket on the Saturday afternoon, watched Melita against Melbourne Croatia in a good game on Saturday night and watched an enjoyable match between Olympic and Apia on the Sunday night.

What simple tastes one has.

In reality, life is not that simple and neither is top sport.

Sport is dramatic, it ebbs and flows, sometimes it is evenly balanced, then suddenly it kicks you in the guts and it seems so unfair.

Ask golfer Greg Norman whose personality has seemed to change after several dramatic disappointments.

That is how it was for the Melita team on the Saturday night.

And that includes the committeemen, the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, trainer and coach, especially the coach.

Melita had been fighting and firing against Croatia for much of the second half to pull back a one goal deficit.

They did that and were seeking a late winner against the tiring depleted Melbourne outfit, when 10 seconds after the end the visitors were awarded a free kick on the edge of the Melita box.

The wall was carefully put in place.

Five sturdy, strong bodies side by side who would not flinch at this stage, even against the kicking power of the onrushing Andrew Marth.

But there was a weakness.

It was down the bottom of the wall.

So impregnable up above with muscle-tight chests braced for impact, even a mental resolution not to move the head if the ball was hit high.

But men are not used to standing with their legs and feet together — women are.

In the wall was at least one with the wide, masculine stance of a doorman saying "nothing gets past me."

Marth drove the ball with scorching power, right between those firmly planted, but spaced feet and it sped into the net by the post with goalie Alex McPherson diving with the same despair that immediately and incredulously engulfed the whole Melita following, as the net bulged as it took the speeding missile.

The whistle blew, the Melita players started toward the tunnel, the men from down south were hugging one another in glee, while disconsolate Melita supporters rose from their seats and treaded their way down the grandstand stairs, shaking their heads completely bemused, shocked and bewildered.



ALAN DAVIDSON — felled by his own goalkeeper against Melita.

Even the young children seemed to be aware of the shock of it all.

Injuries

The dark spectre of serious injury waits patiently in the shadows during most sporting events.

For national team skipper-elect, Alan Davidson, injury came toward the end of the game via his own goalkeeper, who felled him with a blow to the head.

After the game I looked into the room where 'Davo' was still laying, flat on the stretcher that took him from the field.

He was covered, awaiting an ambulance, with a bizarre covering of silver tinfoil.

One wondered how bad it might be and whether he would recover to captain the Socceroos.

Melbourne Croatia are a good team.

'Davo' is the country's best sweeper, so why is he playing stopper?

Stopper requires you man-to-man mark central strikers.

It requires physical qualities, not the intelligence, skill and experience that 'Davo' brings to the sweeper role.

The risk of injury is greater at stopper than at sweeper, thus the head injury.

I always felt, looking at the Olympic team against Apia on the Sunday night, that there were too many young inexperienced players spread throughout it.

Plataniotis, Sorras, Cardoza and Bennett gave Olympic and lightweight look.

Scott Ollerenshaw was not even on the

bench.

One happens to know that Ollerenshaw is well motivated to try to win his place back in the Socceroo side.

Mick Hickman has a problem there.

Scott is fit and well motivated but not playing well.

That requires the coach to ponder why and come up with a selection.

It is important that a team's best players play well.

They are the ones that make the difference.

Ollerenshaw is one of Olympic's best.

Two top coaches last week voted him to be in the current national squad.

If Scott, at 21, fit and a full international, is not a better prospect at this time than inexperienced teenagers Sorras and Cardoza, then something is very awry.

However, who am I to tell others their business, without all the behind the scenes facts at Olympic and even more so down there in Melbourne?

Suffice that one was able to witness two exciting, all-action National League games on one weekend.

Experience

To mingle with well behaved, brightly dressed families in the Melita grandstand and to sit next to a knowledgeable Greek in the grandstand at St George Stadium was a good experience.

The Greek supporter had been following Olympic for EVERY game since 1958.

"I don't smoke during the week," he said lighting up his fourth cigarette.

"But I get through two packets in the game when I come to watch Olympic."

The Olympic style is full of hustle and hurry and can be exciting and frustrating to watch.

It is almost the complete opposite of the slower, accurate, measured style of Marconi.

Marconi coach Berti Mariani is a thinker and his team plays that way.

One imagines that Mick Hickman is intense and a committed person — his team plays that way.

Although, in theory, coaches should pick teams and team styles based on the types of players available, they rarely do.

They pick teams based on their own personal preference.

Thus John Fleming bought players and sought a style at Wollongong Macedonia based on his preference and which he was familiar with and most expert at developing.

In the short term of just some 12 weeks, this clashed with the method and players already employed at Macedonia in the 1990 NSW State League.

Now previous coach, Casey de Bruin, has reversed the procedure and this is the change which all at Macedonia hope will bring National League survival.

I do not know that it was a good thing for Casey, when he took over, to criticise John Fleming for his preferred choice of playing style or players.

John has, after all, won the National League minor premiership in 1988, doing it without a big-money club behind him.

Not many coaches can claim that.

Race is on for Oceania award

The International Football Federation of History and Statistics is again seeking votes for the Oceania Footballer of the Year.

A total of 15 names has been compiled as a guide to the top players in Oceania.

It is not limited to these players, however, and those Australian journalists voting in the poll can select other players if deemed worthy.

The votes will be collated and checked by Australian Soccer Federation secretary Alan Vessey.

Last year's winner was Wynton Rufer, of New Zealand, who was presented with his award during a television spectacular in Europe and again when he returned to New Zealand.

GRAHAM ARNOLD: Striker who was poised to captain Australia in 1990 when suddenly accepted offer to join Dutch First Division club Roda JC. Aggressive player who took over major striking role for Socceroos in recent years after long run as central striker for NSL club Sydney Croatia.

CHARLIE YANKOS: After 66 appearances as Socceroo captain, Yankos retired this year from international football. He became captain in October, 1986 and played 87 times for Australia. Strong defender who has decided to stay active and this season joined Wollongong City in NSL.

PASCAL VAHIRUA: Outstanding Tahitian striker with Auxerre in the French First Division. Now a regular starter for the full French national team. Plays left wing and scores consistently Equal third in 1989 Oceania poll.

REYNALD TEMARI: Another Tahiti striker on the improve. Joined FC Nantes for a season in France. Returned to Tahiti this year to become leading scorer for club Venus with 22 goals. Venus won the premiership and the French Cup in Noumea.

ANTOINE KOMBOUARE: New Caledonian stopper who has easily held his place with FC Nantes, then Paris St Germain, in French First Division. Represented France in Olympic Games qualifying rounds. Born in New Caledonia and joined Nantes in 1984.

Equal third in 1989 Oceania poll.

RADIKE NAWALU: Fijian striker who has been a representative player for past six years. Captained district team and last year was chosen to captain Fiji in the Melanesian Cup.

MANIS LAMOND: Still the outstanding player to come from Papua New Guinea. Gifted striker with NSL club Sydney Croatia who displays plenty of speed and skill.

CLINT GOSLING: Goalkeeper with Sydney National League Club Sydney Olympic, but better known internationally as NZ World Cup and Olympic Games keeper. Became NZ squad member in 1985 and has performed consistently against Australia, Israel and on overseas tours.

NOEL BARKLEY: NZ midfielder-striker who played for the All Whites against the USSR and Fiji in 1986. Has since been a regular in the NZ World Cup and Olympic Games squads and was voted NZ 1990 Player of the Year.

MIKE MCGARRY: Midfield-striker who has progressed into one of NZ's most consistent players. After a stint in Australia with NSL club Sydney Olympic, returned to NZ national league and has developed into key player with Christchurch United.

FRANK FARINA: Australian World Cup and Olympic Games striker who has been a big success story in Belgium. Top soccer last year for Club Brugge and 1988 Oceania Footballer of the Year and runner-up in 1989.



WYNTON RUFER: defending his Oceania award.

FRED DE JONG: 1982 NZ Youth international who joined Sydney club Marconi in 1987 after representing NZ against Fiji in 1986. Second top scorer in NSL in 1989 and has made successful debut with Dutch First Division club Fortuna Sittard.

WYNTON RUFER: Top NZ striker who played well against Australia and Israel before transferring to Switzerland. Moved to German club Werder Bremen where he continues to grab goals. 1989 Oceania Footballer of the Year.

PAUL WADE: Attacking midfielder with NSL club South Melbourne who reached his peak when he captained Australia in winning the President's Tournament in Jakarta last August. Regular member in World Cup and Olympic teams.

TOM MCCULLOCH: Twenty-one times Australian youth international who became a regular Socceroo in 1990. Strong midfielder who has been key player in past two seasons for Sydney NSL club Marconi.



All that hype! Adelaide City fans have often had the pleasure of seeing the girls from the dance group CHEERLEADERS doing their routine in front of the crowd at their home games. — A JANUSZ KAMMA PICTURE

The Metros Materialise

BY GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA's flag-ship club will be known as the Canberra Metros during the 1991 season — a campaign which club officials are hoping will be a stepping stone to Quit National League status.

The name, chosen after a competition run in The Canberra Times, is one that represents "all of Canberra, not just one club," president Frank Crnkovic believes. Speaking at the press conference called to launch the Metros, he said he hoped the new name would be another step in bringing national league soccer back to the ACT after a break of five years "and to make soccer as popular here as it once was."

"We hope the Metros will become as well known

as the Raiders are in rugby league or the Cannons in basketball," he said.

The name was chosen from about 100 entries received during the competition, which was run by the Canberra Supporters Club.

The winner, Joe Pilarski, of Queanbeyan, said he entered the competition after seeing the coupon in the Times.

"I came up with the Metros in an effort to strike a balance by steering away from both the typically European and Australian names for soccer clubs," he said. "Hopefully it satisfies everybody."

The shortlist of suggestions considered by the supporters club included the Chiefs, Cavaliers and Diplomats.

Metros will be the sixth name the club has played under since 1977. Previous

titles have included City, Arrows, Olympians, Grifins and Croatia.

EUROPEAN CUP DRAWS

THIS is the draw for the quarter-finals of the three European Cup competitions, which resulted in two sensational Champions' Cup pairings — Milan v Marseille and Bayern Munich v Porto.

Champions' Cup

Spartak Moscow (USSR) v Real Madrid (Spain), AC Milan (Italy) v Marseille (France), Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) v Dynamo Dresden (Germany), Bayern Munich (Germany) v Porto (Portugal).

Cup-Winners' Cup

Legia Warsaw (Poland) v Sampdoria (Italy), Dynamo Kiev (USSR) v Barcelona (Spain), Manchester United (England) v Montpellier (France), FC Liege (Belgium) v Juventus (Italy).

UEFA Cup

Bologna (Italy) v Sporting Lisbon (Portugal), Torpedo Moscow (USSR) v Brondby (Denmark), Atalanta (Italy) v Inter Milan (Italy), AS Roma (Italy) v Anderlecht (Belgium).

First legs to be played on March 6, 1991; return matches on March 20.

ACT BRIEFS

BY GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA S.C. supporters will get a say in the direction they wish the club to take. Supporters club president Bob Tuckwell said a questionnaire will be distributed at home NSW League games next season.

"The aim is to assess just what people want from the club, especially after it enters the Quit National League in 1991-92 summer season," he said.

★ ★ ★

AND the club regained a link with the early days of Canberra City when it announced that Steve Doszpot had agreed to take charge of its publicity machine during the coming season.

Doszpot, who now hosts the popular Soccer Scene program on Radio 2CN, held a similar position for City during its initial venture into the NSL in the late 1970s.

★ ★ ★

PRESIDENT Paul Murphy continues in office



after elections for officers at the annual meeting of the ACT Division of the Australian Soccer Referees Federation.

Vice president is Neil Murray, secretary Owen Heness, treasurer Andreas Stoffels and committee David Watson, Bibi Thayer and Gordon Dunster.

★ ★ ★

MORE than 30 people attended the inaugural meeting of the ACT Soccer Coaches Association, organiser Shef Khan says.

"The interest was gratifying, particularly as there were some who doubt it would ever get off the ground," he said.

Officers elected were: President Khan, secretary Peter Hugg, publicity officer Martyn Smith and treasurer John Cannock.

★ ★ ★

WHITE EAGLES, also rans in the recent ACT State Indoor Soccer Championships, made some amends by beating old rival Ainslie Concrete Dribblers 2-1 to take the Northside Premier Division title.

Eagles, needing only a draw to win the competition, took the lead from an early Willie Stinton goal and built on this through Baz Giampaolo before half-time. Jack Doherty got one back for the Dribblers in the second half.

Best for the Dribblers were captain and goalkeeper Tony Musumeci, Nunzio Rinaudo and Jim Kanaradis while the Popovich brothers — Njegosh, Toplica and Arsenije — had outstanding games for the winner.

Queensland Futsal ready for the rest

BY DAVID SHARPLEY

IN readiness for the forthcoming 1991 national titles, the Queensland Futsal Federation has recently completed trials to finalise squads that will compete in Canberra over the Australia Day long weekend.

To be staged at the Institute of Sport, the National Championships will play host to a record 12 representative teams from Queensland.

Also attending will be a record number of club sides competing over the same weekend in the individual club championship.

Defending titles will be the men's open and the 12 and 13 age group teams who were victorious in the 1990 National Championships.

The following coaches, managers and players have been selected in their respective sides:

11 Boys: Coach Ron Derrick (Ipswich) manager Michael Stone (Logan), Chris Colley, David Gleeson, Steve Oresganin (Logan), Jamie Derrick, Matthew Hilli, Peter Hinks, Brendan Johnston, Paul Eakenes (Ipswich) and Daniel Smith (Bayside).

12 Boys: Coach Ken McLean (Logan), Manager William Gordon (Logan), Damian Conquest, Alan Gordon, Troy Wickstein, Shannon Fisher, Thung Nguyen, Shawn Carey, Ruben Ziru and Danny Davis (Logan), Wayne Derrick, Nguc Bui (Ipswich).

13 Boys: Coach Alistair Miller (Logan), Ross Davidson, Lincoln Conquest, Mark Barrick, Reece Tollenare, Tony de Lany, Todd Sully (Logan), Troy Hand, Eamonn Coffey (Pine Rivers).

14 Boys: Coach Alistair Miller (Logan), Sean Geraghty, Alistair McClure, Neil Davenport, Brenden Freeman, Trent Watson, Alistair McLean, (Logan), Ryan Lonergan and John Filewood (Bayside).

16 Boys: Coach Brian Keightley (Bayside) manager John Lonergan (Bayside), Robert Lock, Brenden White, Kris Dowling (Logan), Vaughan Hindley, Brett Hand, Paul Schloss,

(Pine Rivers), Bernard Shieck (Rockhampton).

17 Boys: Coach Brian Keightley (Bayside), manager John Lonergan (Bayside), Simon Conquest, Brendon Conquest, Stephen Davis, Nicholas Satterley, Richard Littler (Logan), Richard Eslick (Pine Rivers), Michael Bettridge (Rockhampton), Adam Lonergan (Bayside). Youth: Coach Bob Corbett (Bayside) manager John Burnett (Bayside), Darren Kulher (Bayside), John Papas, John Weatherby (Chandler), Steve Konstantinou (Toombul), Lance Laphorn, Ross Smart, Terry Lucas (Rockhampton).

Open Men: Coach Bob Corbett (Bayside), manager John Burnett (Bayside), Paul Grocott (Logan), Grant Beevers (Rockhampton), Mark Boyd (Pine Rivers), Graham Ross (Chandler), Wayne Corbett, Kieran Cooper, Geoff Maltby, Colin Simpson, Neil Olive, Ricky Allen (Bayside).

Men's Over 35: Coach Bob Corbett (Bayside), manager John Burnett (Bayside), Jim Hewson, Steven Jones, Sam Mancini (Pine Rivers), Graham Davison, Allen Jones, John Burnett (Bayside), John Majors, Dean Wilkinson, Dave Eastoe (Logan).

17 Women: Coach Jim Hewson (Pine Rivers) manager Mark Boyd (Pine Rivers), Jacqueline Page, Helen Pothegany (Logan), Gloria Burnell, Amanda Williams (Rockhampton), Zoe Smith, Michelle Bentick, Carolyn Eslick, Karen O'Dwyer (Pine Rivers).

Open Women: (White) Coach Jim Hewson (Pine Rivers) manager Mark Boyd (Pine Rivers), Kaye O'Sullivan, Kim Patterson, Tracey Diprose, Teresa Cronin, Leonce Yaw-Yeh, Sharon Eloridge (Pine Rivers), Maree Humphreys, Melissa Sopha, Angela van Eyk (Bayside).

Open Women: (Maroon) Coach Jim Hewson (Pine Rivers) Manager Mark Boyd (Pine Rivers), Cathy O'Neill (Bayside), Kylie Ticehurst, Liz Bateham, Kylie Sheehan, Janette Sifton, Lessa Dodkin, Helen Browne, Julie Columbus (Pine Rivers).

Bruce Banks dies

It is with sorrow that we record the death of Sports Exchange proprietor Bruce Banks, at the age of 38. He died last week as the result of a sudden cardiac arrest, and the funeral took place in Newcastle last Thursday. Sports Exchange is handling travel and accommodation for the huge Kanga Cup project in conjunction with the NSW Amateur Federation and Ian Marriott. We express our condolences to Mrs Banks and her young family.

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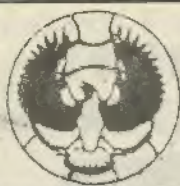
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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



CROATIA has welcomed back Tony Radic and Robert Kovacev from loan to Lion in preparation for the new season.

And the Ampol and Federation Cup holders may need their services.

Skipper Ivica Jurkovic is recuperating from groin surgery and striker George Konstandopoulos has a foot in plaster.

In addition, defender Deni Stepic will miss the Ampol Cup kick-off.

He is suspended for two games after being sent off in Croatia's Federation Cup final win last season against Hellas.

One to keep your eye on is chunky, teenage utility player, Frank Radic.

At just 15, he is too young to be regarded as a fixture in the side but he looks sure to make his future presence felt in the game in SA.

Former Hellas and Heidelberg NSL player Ian McKie will play next season with Salisbury in the Foundation SA League.

The talented defender, 28, has been out of the game for a couple of seasons following achilles tendon surgery but is fit and raring to go after playing in seven and five a sides.

He is a former Salisbury junior, who has settled back in SA, so it is great to welcome him back," said Salisbury's Jack Innes. "He has looked really good in training and we're sure he'll give us another boost. We just have to iron out a few details with Heidel-

berg but we anticipate no problems."

CROATIA has appointed former Soccer Jimbo Muir as its youth development officer.

Muir, who has wide experience coaching youth state sides in SA, will lead the club's Under-18s and also be in charge of a developmental squad.

"We have big plans for the kids and Jimbo's experience in that area will be invaluable," said clubman Karlo Zagar.

"These kids are our future and we hope Jim can help give us the results we are after."

AZZURRI stocks have risen with the signing of former State midfielder Paul Higgins.

The cool Birkalla Eagles man will add another dimension in class to the already impressive Blues who play some of the most attractive soccer in SA. Azzurri looks to have completed its squad plans for next term though coach Jan Kierno has one other signing option at which he may look.

Reserve goalkeeper Andy Papp-Horvath has left the club to solve a custodial problem at Beograd.

ADELAIDE City's youth side is now the Ad-City Clipsal Colts.

"The Adelaide City board this week voted to grant naming rights to Clipsal in recognition of their tremendous support and commitment to the Adelaide City Soccer Club," said marketing



Adelaide City's Soccerroo left-back, big Alex Tobin — Photo: JANUSZ KAMMA.

manager, David Jenkins. "We felt the need to project Clipsal to our market place effectively and the youth team is a great vehicle."

THE mighty Magpies, circa 1979, were back in action on Sunday at John Hart Reserve.

Port Adelaide's Second Division premiership and Federation Cup winning-side met the Magpies of today.

Among the 'old boys' on show were Gordon and John Smith, Ian White, Ray Coull, Neville Yeing, Charlie Camilleri, Geoff Booth, Mark and Dick Patrino, Bobby Mills, Rob Uranjek, Andy Toland, John Konstandopoulos and Jim Peat.

Was quite a day.

USC Lions could be missing the untapped talent of teenage Andrew Borghetto next season. The youngster who has a casual elegance reminiscent of former England star Glenn Hoddle, is off for a break in Italy.

Borghetto was named at a staggering \$60,000 in the club's retained players' lists. He had appealed against that sum but a meeting called last week to hear that appeal was cancelled.

He is due to return to SA in February to complete his studies and ambitious Azzurri may eye his progress.

MIKE Kavalent, who has resigned as coach of USC Lion, wants to stay in the game after battling well to see the Grange side survive in the state First Division.

"I will keep my eyes and ears open for another opportunity," he said. "Another club might share my philosophies on the game."

"Unfortunately, Lion does not appear to want to go anywhere or to spend the kind of money to keep players at Grange or attract new ones. We have done well to survive the past couple of seasons. It is okay going in with kids but if you have too many you will just be swamped, I was aware of several things that were going on down there that I did not agree with and felt it was better if I resigned."

Bugsy Nyskohus, a former Lion coach, is a warm favourite to return.

TWO visiting Scottish players look sure to be fixed up for next season's SA League action.

Ronnie Webster and Ken Tosh, both 21, are here on a year's working visa and have been training with local clubs.

Both played in the Scottish Junior League with Arbroath Vics.

Beograd could lead the race for their signatures.

CAMPBELLTOWN City could get a boost for next season with striker Serg Giannone likely to resume.

An ankle injury and personal commitments saw the striker miss most of last season.

Coach Jimmy Campbell, too, is sure

he has some blossoming First Division talent in his club juniors.

A couple could become first team regulars in 1991.

Meanwhile, Azzurri has been given a boost by re-signing talented wing-striker Angie Giannitto.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Kiwis' worry about Aussies' preparations

IT appears that some members of the New Zealand Women's Soccer Association are worried about Australia's preparation for the World Cup qualification tournament to be held in Sydney during May 1991.

Australia will host leading Swedish club Malmö for three tests in January and the Kiwis have asked if Malmö could travel on to New Zealand to round out their Pacific tour.

The Australian Wo-

men's Soccer Association has notified New Zealand that discussions with Swedish officials indicated time and money constraints would prevent Malmö from touring to New Zealand.

The Malmö competition for the national team is vital as Australia will need to beat New Zealand and Papua New Guinea to qualify for the 1st World Cup to be staged in China later next year.

Further information: Heather Reid (06) 248 5834.

NSL switches airlines

THE Quit National Soccer League has changed airlines.

As of January 1, Australian Airlines replaces Ansett as the official NSL carrier.

Ansett had been the official NSL airline for the past five years, while the ASF and various states had been flying Australian Airlines.

Now the whole of Australian football is under the same umbrella.

\$40,000 rental bill for George Cross

SUNSHINE George Cross is at loggerheads with the Sunshine Council over a whopping \$40,000 rental

charge placed upon them for six months' use of Skinner Reserve.

Club president, Terry Muscat, is irate at the Council not notifying the club first hand of its decision, as media reports first brought the matter to their attention.

"We are utterly disappointed about not being consulted by the Council."

"We first found out about the fee by reading the newspapers and have had no official notification from them," said Muscat.

"We could hire



Olympic Park for around \$19,000 for the season, so the figure the Council has mentioned is exorbitant."

Muscat went on to add that the latest decision was contrary to the club's negotiations for a long-term lease of Skinner Reserve.

George Cross had earlier submitted a proposal to upgrade the ground's facilities by building a new grandstand and dressing rooms, plus other facilities

to bring the ground up to NSL requirements.

"We also promised to maintain the ground without council assistance, so it would drastically cut down the claimed cost they have given," said Muscat.

He also went on to add further fuel to the argument by saying George Cross was the only sporting organisation in the council municipality which could manage the ground and maintain it as a viable business proposition for the Council.

To leave Skinner Reserve in its present state would be suicidal for George Cross.

It is well below NSL standards that have been tabled in the ASF's Bradley Report.

— DAVID BULLOCK



YOUNG striker Carl Veart, now returning from injury, will be a big gain following the loss of Soccerroo midfielder Ernie Tapai for the balance of the season. Pic: JANUSZ KAMMA.

MACQUARIE CITY SOCCER ASSOCIATION JOINS AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER YOUTH TOURNAMENTS

THE newly formed Macquarie City Soccer Association has been welcomed with open arms by the executive of the Sydney Branch of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation as the latest member to join the Youth League and Metropolitan representatives competitions.

The Youth League is regarded as Australia's number one youth soccer competition and is a joint competition controlled and run by the Sydney Branch of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

Only the best players in NSW can compete and in doing so they must represent either a NSW Amateur Association, an NSL club or a NSW State League Division 1 club.

Competition is fierce and the tournament is used for talent identification of the best players to represent the state in national championships.

There are four age groups in the Youth League.

These are U/13, U/14, U/15 and U/17.

As New South Wales has either won or been runner-up in every national tournament for 13, 14 and 15-year-old players for the past six years, the strength of the competition must speak for itself.

The Youth League in 1991 is in two Divisions, with promotion and relegation operating between the divisions.

Macquarie City will start in Division 2 which has two groups.

It will be part of Group A and will compete against Central Coast Soccer Assn, Granville and Districts Soccer Football Assn, Manly-Warringah Soccer Assn, Ku-Ring-Gai and District Soccer Assn, Polonia, Avala, and Warringah-Freshwater.

They will meet all of these teams twice on a home-and-away basis.

Macquarie will also play Group B teams once between their own home-and-away matches.

The Group B teams are Southern and Eastern SFA, Canterbury and District SFA,

AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION OF NORTHERN NSW INCORPORATED

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NSWASF Ltd
General Manager
Mr C. Bucello
482 Meurants Lane,
Parkies NSW.

Dear Cec,

I am pleased to inform you that at a meeting of the ASF of NNSW Inc. (Northern Branch) at South West Rocks on December 2, 1990 an application from the Steering Committee of the Macquarie City Soccer Association to become an Associate Member was placed before the Directors and was accepted unanimously.

The Steering Committee has the full support of the Northern Branch to form an Association in the Macquarie area and to later become a full member in place of the Macquarie Amateur Soccer Association Inc. whose resignation was also discussed and accepted at that meeting with regret.

It is the desire of the Branch to have the Macquarie City Soccer Association recognised by NSWASF Ltd and all Branches as a member of the Northern Branch and has the permission of the Northern Branch to apply to enter any competition conducted by NSWASF Ltd and Branches.

At present it has teams in under 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 age grades and has the permission of the Branch to seek entry into the Sydney Youth League and Metropolitan Reps.

It will be entering teams in all ages at our Branch Championships and all players will be eligible for selection in our Branch Metropolitan teams and in turn will be eligible for selection into NSW State and Country Representative teams.

age groups and is made up of association representative teams only.

In 1991 it will be in two conferences, with Macquarie City Soccer Association playing in the northern conference.

They will compete against eight other Association teams on a home-and-away basis, with the top four teams to play against the top four teams from the Southern Conference in a finals series at the end of the season.

Other teams in the Northern Conference are Central Coast SFA, Ku-Ring-Gai and District SFA, Manly-Warringah SFA, Gladesville-Hornsby FA, Southern and Eastern SFA, Granville and Districts SFA, Blacktown and District SFA and Nepean Districts SFA, once again a formidable line up.

This tournament serves as the first part of the talent identification programme.

The general manager of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation, Cec Bucello, said that he was pleased to see further representation from the North in these elite competitions.

He further stated that for players to progress through the ranks to reach the highest level, they need to have the opportunity to play against strong opposition.

"In this way, they will be able to display their skills and abilities to be seen by the best coaches while learning from their opposition," he said.

"Our progressive clubs and associations value these two competitions highly.

"It is a credit to the newly formed Macquarie City Soccer Association members that they can see the value to their players in competing at such a high level.

"They are to be congratulated on what they have achieved in such a short time and I for one wish them well in their new endeavour.

"Any amateur organisation that can see past their own club's status to look at the benefits to be had by the players and soccer in general must be an asset to the code and deserve full support at all levels."



Members of the Macquarie City Soccer Association wearing the club's grey and red distinctive uniform which will depict the logo of their major sponsor Shell Australia.

Blacktown and District SFA, Bankstown United Association of Soccer Clubs, Illawarra District Amateur SFA, Southern Branch, Rockdale-Ilinden and Canterbury-Marrickville — a strong line-up in anybody's language.

Overall results are

recorded for the two groups and the top four teams in the Division at the end of the year will play in a finals series against the top four Division One teams.

The Metropolitan Representatives (Metro Reps) competition is for 11 and 12-year old

FOOD TIPS

THOUGH no coach advocates a constant diet of fast food, sometimes it's inevitable that that's what young players will eat.

To minimise the nutritional damage of fast food:

► Stock up at the salad bar. Mix different types of lettuce, spinach and cabbage, and top with fresh vegetables. Go easy on shredded cheese and crumbled eggs; avoid croutons, bacon bits and mayonnaise-based salads. To moisten your salad, use lemon, low-calorie dressing or cottage cheese.

► Realise that "salad" is not synonymous with "diet food." The meat, cheese and dressing can deliver more calories and fat than some burgers. Salad dressings in oversized packages provide about 400 calories.

► Get a baked potato topped with vegetables, cottage cheese, mustard or tomato sauce, sour cream is better than margarine or butter — keep it to a minimum.

► Choose roast beef sandwiches or plain hamburgers with mustard, lettuce and tomato.

► Choose chicken carefully. Grilled chicken items are good, but chicken that is breaded and fried usually has more fat than specialty burgers.

► Be suspicious of specialty sandwiches. Even those that start out with lean meat can pack more calories and as much fat as specialty burgers.

► If chips are a must, share an order.

► Drink low-fat milk or fruit juice with your meal.

— courtesy SOCCER AMERICA

JUNIOR PERSONALITY PLAYER



ANTE MORIC

NAME: Ante Tomislav Moric

CLUB: AIS — full-time

D.O.B.: 19.4.74

PLACE: Sydney

FAVOURITE POSITION: Midfield

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Maradona, Boban, Bišić

PLAYING CAREER: Zagreb Hurstville 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, Premiers and Grand Final winners every year.

SYDNEY CROATIA: 86, 89, 90 — 89 & 90 State Championships.

CANTERBURY DISTRICTS: 86, 87 — 86 State Champions, Canterbury Reps.

ST GEORGE: 88 Premiers, Grand Final winners, State Champions.

NSW: U13, U14, U15 Australian Champions.

LONG TERM AMBITIONS: To represent Australia in the U19s in 1993 and to play for Sydney Croatia in the NSL.

*
** First Sydney Croatian junior ever to be selected to play and train full-time with AIS. Looking at his playing record above, what a future this young player will have!

compiled by MICHAEL KOMADINA

Kanga Cup advances

BY KEITH GILMOUR

ENTRIES have been arriving in a steady stream from overseas teams keen to compete in the Kanga Cup in mid-1991.

Overseas sides will come from both Europe and America.

The NSW Amateur Federation is conducting the tournament in conjunction with Sports Exchange and Soccer Football Enterprises.

NSW Amateur Federation general manager Cec Bucello said: "One of the most interesting applications is from Manchester City under 19 team.

"Interest in Australia from England has been fanned by the high profile Australian television programmes that have appeared in the UK.

"Some applicant teams are keen to stay in Cairns on the way home.

"Accommodation requirements can be tailored to meet the whole range of requests.

"For example, in

some younger grades the children will use sleeping bags on schoolroom floors.

"Others will occupy individual rooms and dormitories at various colleges, whilst there is a demand in some cases for motel accommodation."

Although the death of Sports Exchange proprietor Bruce Banks has been a most unfortunate setback, the Kanga Cup will provide the greatest festival of youth soccer ever seen in Australia.

Representatives from one of Europe's top tournaments, Denmark's Dana Cup, will be in Australia to advise on the arrangements for the massive event.

Also coming are representatives from California, home of the huge American Youth Soccer Organisation (AYSO)

and regular host of many such tournaments.

With junior and schools soccer in recess over our summer period, the local situation is one of expressions of interest at this stage.

"We expect to be swamped with applications from around Australia once the clubs begin to get their acts together by the beginning of February," Cec Bucello said.

WHEATLEY COLUMN
Due to technical problems Robert Wheatley's weekly column had to be held back. Watch for it again next week when he reports on Marconi junior, Adam Whan's trials in England with the mighty Liverpool.

Ten to Ad City!

BY ROY HAY

ADELAIDE City had a 10-0 win over the young and plucky Springvale City side in scorching heat at the Hindmarsh Stadium in the NYL South on December 16.

Jimmy Rooney said after the game that he was pleased his youngsters had stuck to the task and that they would learn from it.

Anthony Di Gioia and Michael Brooks, who came on as substitute, each scored four and Carlo Talladira two.

Agim Sherilovski's late goal was all that separated Sunshine George Cross from Preston Makedonia after a keen struggle at Skinner Reserve which George just deserved to win.

Sean Keough saved a penalty to deny Preston, which will have done his confidence some good.

The win enabled George to jump over Preston and Hellas into second spot on the ladder.

Caulfield City won a tough battle against Melbourne Croatia by 3-2 at Princes Park.

Ilias Diniotis gave Caulfield a flying start after only 45 seconds, winning the ball from Croatia straight from the kick-off.

Anthony Grbac equalised for Croatia in 42 minutes, but Jim Filis restored Caulfield's lead, only for Dale White to bring Croatia level again.

George Alikakos scored a penalty in 81 minutes for the Caulfield winner.

Three players got red cards in the match.

South Melbourne Hellas defeated its Colts side 2-0 at Middle Park.

It was a very even first half, but Peter Nikolakopoulos opened for the senior side and recent signing from Melbourne City JUST, Micky Soldatovic came off the bench to make it two.

The Colts had their Joeys stars back after the successful trip to Chile, but the boys were very tired.

Altona Gate and Heidelberg United shared the points in a 1-1 draw at Paisley Park.

Sam Papadopoulos opened for Heidelberg in 19 minutes, and Robert Georgievski equalised for Altona Gate in 64 minutes and the draw was fair to both teams.

An identical score at Somers Street occurred when Melbourne Croatia Colts drew with Brighton.

This was another bruising affair and Brighton had two players sent off late in the game.

Colts conceded an own goal after 33 minutes and it was not till the 88th minute that Jani Suric converted a penalty kick for his 8th goal of the season, which saved the Colts.

Geelong City snatched defeat from the jaws of victory throwing away a 3-1 lead against Northcote City

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed. Address all material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

and conceding two goals in the last two minutes to go down 3-2.

Cedo Rakic scored twice in the first half, interspersed by one for Northcote by Tom Zouzounis.

Craig Plummer made it 3-1 just before the interval, but Perry Peppas pulled one back with a volley.

Time was running out when first Nick Hatzilazaridis and then Fabio Ranalli took advantage of slack defence to snatch an amazing victory for the visitors.

Corrections and additions to goalscorers on December 9, 1990 — Janis Nickas scored for Brighton against Adelaide City. Adelaide City's fifth goal was scored by Anthony Di Gioia not Alf Ianniello.

THE 12th round of the National Youth League North was played in sweltering conditions and an early kick-off at Melita Stadium did not help the budding youngsters from Melita and Sydney Olympic, who barely raised a gallop in Melita's 1-0 win.

In the 15th minute, a cross by Joe Serratore on the left flank was handled in the area by George Haniotis and the reliable Lenny Vial beat keeper Scott Allan with his placement in the bottom corner of the net.

Melita could have made it 2-0 in the 30th when Aldo Martinich took advantage of a mix-up in the Olympic defence and chipped the keeper, but hit the crossbar.

The rebound was driven home by Shane

Williams, who was then ruled offside.

Melita continued to show solid form and along with Croatia is making life difficult for the leaders.

St George went down at home to Croatia 1-2 at Barton Park, with some sloppy defence by the locals a contributing factor.

Peter Bazdaric opened the scoring for Croatia when he scored from the spot following a foul on Jorge Vazquez by Elias Augerinos in the 20th minute.

Six minutes into the second period Adam Ciantar rounded off a good move involving both Zokiadioski, Adam Poric and himself with a top corner finish for the equaliser.

In the 72nd Eddie Haragli missed a headed clearance off the 40th metre mark, allowing Vazquez to go on and round the keeper before

BY PAUL GOODWIN

placing the ball into the net for the winning goal.

With AIS on a short break, St George retain the lead, but Croatia and Melita are hard on their heels now.

Marconi have not been scoring many goals to date, but made up for lost time at Bossley Park on Sunday, hammering Wollongong Macedonia 5-0.

Stephen Corica, transferred from the AIS and already a regular scorer, notched his first goal for Marconi in the 89th minute to add to goals by Gabriel Lopez in the 34th and 48th, Mark Dall'Est in the 52nd and Andrew Charlwood in the 70th.

Wollongong held their own in the first half, but could not contain the experienced Marconi boys after the break in a game which saw several players replaced through heat exhaustion.

Forty three-degree heat in Newcastle did not deter the youthful Adamstown Rosebud side, still without a win when they tackled Apia Leichhardt.

In a seven-goal thriller, the visitors won 4-3 with a last minute strike after the home side had twice been in front.

It was unfortunate for Adamstown that they struck Apia on a day when leading markman David Batten was not on senior duty.

Batten was involved in all four Apia goals, scoring twice themselves and aiding Peter Murray in the other two.

A gentle breeze assisted Adamstown at the start and George Sifouris put the locals one up in the seventh with Steven Kacev extending the side's lead at the 43-minute mark.

The arrival of a strong southerly change for the second period meant that Apia had the wind at their back and Batten and Murray soon had Apia level.

Adamstown fought back and regained the lead when Sifouris grabbed an 85th minute goal, but Apia was not finished.

They were right on top by this stage and Batten's second in the 87th to bring the teams level was the signal of a grandstand finale.

A free kick in the last seconds saw Peter Murray rise above the Adamstown defence to head home the winner against the competition's bottom placed club.

On this showing, however, the elusive first win should be just around the corner.

Rd 12 Results: Parramatta Melita 1 (Vial pen) Sydney Olympic 0, St George 1 (Ciantar) Sydney Croatia 2 (Bazdaric pen, Vazquez), Marconi 5 (Gabriel Lopez 2, Dall'Est, Charlwood, Corica) Wollongong Macedonia 0, Adamstown 3 (Sifouris 2, Kacev) Apia Leichhardt 4 (Batten 2 Murray 2).

Rd 11 Results: Sydney Academy 1 (Jerman) St

George 3 (Ciantar, Adioski, Kakakios pen), Sydney Olympic 3 (Lee, di Blasio, Collins) Apia Leichhardt 0, Sydney Croatia 3 (Carluccio, Scott, Gonzalez) Wollongong City 0, Highfields Azzurri 2 (Van Epan, Harris) Marconi 0, Wollongong Macedonia 1 (Miranda) AIS 4 (Crivari, Moric, Kutlesovski, Milicic).

St George 11 8 1 2 34 17 17
AIS 9 7 2 0 25 10 18
Syd Croatia 10 7 1 2 22 7 15
Melita 10 6 2 2 16 8 14
Sydney City 10 4 4 2 13 8 12
W'gong City 10 4 2 4 11 14 10
H'fields Azz 10 4 2 4 19 23 10
Sydney A 9 4 1 4 18 12 9
Apia 10 3 1 5 16 22 7
Marconi 10 3 0 7 14 19 6
W'gong M 11 1 1 9 7 30 3
Adamstown 10 0 1 9 13 38 1

Leading Scorers as at 24.12.90
9 David Batten (AL)
7 John Kakakios (StG)
6 Stephen Corica (AIS-Marconi),
Adam Ciantar, Adam Poric (StG)
5 Ante Milicic (AIS), Shaun
Freestone (StG).

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

TOP SCORERS AS AT 17.12.90

7: John Kakakios (St George),
David Batten (Leichhardt)
6: Adam Poric (St George)
5: Ante Milicic (AIS), Stephen
Corica (AIS/Marconi), Shaun
Freestone, Adam Ciantar (both
St George).
4: Pablo Cardosa (Olympic),
Dean Adameon (Highfields),
Peter Tskenis (Sydney
Academy), Aldo Matlincech,
(Melita), Daryl Ziederman (St
George).
3: Tony Velaski (Sydney
Academy), Damien Smith
(Adamstown), Danny Petkovic
(Wollongong City), Peter Bad-
zaric, Greg Carluccio, Gabriel
Gonzales (all Sydney Croatia),
Brad van Epan (Highfields), Ice
Kutlesovski, Murray Crevari
(both AIS).
2: Glen Johnson, Gabriel
Lopez, Andrew Charlwood (all
Marconi), Alex Aravena (Melita),
Steven Kacev (Adamstown).

Nick Radecki (AIS), Sasha Dimoski, Shaun Williams (both Wollongong City), Paul Saerant (Highfields), Craig Penfold, Keiran Harris (both Highfields), Zoran Ilic, Andy Harper, Andrew Ollier (Sydney Academy), Shane Williams (Melita), Marc Oliver (Sydney Academy), Craig McGregor (St George).

SOUTHERN DIVISION 23 December

Preston Makedonia 7 (Trakovski 2, Georgopoulos 2, Bekiaris, Tomikovski, Dimitrievski) Northcote City 2 (Hloposoulas, Peppas) Brighton 0 Sunshine George Cross 2 (Latil, Serratore) South Melbourne Hellas Colts 1 (Pappas) Melbourne Croatia Colts 3 (Suric 2, Silic) Heidelberg United 0 South Melbourne Hellas 3 (Palatskides, Tikitakis) Springvale City 1 (McClennaghan) Altona Gate 3 (Mickelad 2, Velkovski) Melbourne Croatia 2 (Stolica, Bacak) Adelaide City 1 (Talladira) Caulfield City 0 Geelong City 2 (McCaffrey, Colak).

P	W	D	L	A	Pts
Adelaide City	12	10	1	1	46
Sunshine GC	12	8	2	2	38
SWH	12	7	3	3	34
Preston Mh	12	7	3	3	33
Melb. Croatia	12	7	0	5	34
Altona Gate	12	6	2	4	22
Caulfield	12	5	4	3	18
Heidelberg	12	5	3	4	20
Geelong City	12	3	3	6	20
Melb. Cr Colts	12	3	2	7	17
SWH Colts	12	3	1	8	10
Northcote City	12	3	1	8	10
Brighton	12	2	1	9	7
Springvale	12	1	3	8	6

LEADING GOALSCORERS
Carlo Talladira Adelaide City 11, Juno Suric Melbourne Croatia Colts 10, George Alikakos Caulfield City 9, Michael Brooks Adelaide City 8, Mitchell Cottermore Sunshine George Cross 8, Nick Papadopoulos Heidelberg United 7, Craig Plummer Geelong City 6, Nick Georgopoulos Preston Makedonia 6, Michael Michalopoulos South Melbourne Hellas 6, Peter Nikolakopoulos South Melbourne Hellas 6.

— ROY HAY

Polonia star returns to Legia to pursue career

BY PAUL GOODWIN



David Kealy (centre) with Polish stars Krzysztof Budka (Legia and Poland) and Celtic's Dariusz Wdowczyk.

DAVID Kealy, of NSW State League club Polonia, has returned to Europe to take up a contract with first division big guns, Legia Warsaw.

He will join them mid-season, during their trip to Spain, while Polish pitches are out of action in the snow-bound interior.

David left Australia last week and planned a short stay in the United States, with friends, before flying on to Madrid, where he will meet up with his new team-mates.

Kealy trialled with both Legia and 2nd division club OKS Zaglebie Walbrzych and returned to Australia with offers of contracts from both clubs.

Difficulties with obtaining a Polish working visa for the

2nd division ruled out any further appearances with them, but there were no such problems with Legia.

He did have some trouble gaining a release from his Australian club and his clearance from the ASF also held him up, meaning that he could not play as early in the season as he would have liked.

The defender is looking forward to establishing a regular place in the Legia first team, and hopes to attract the attention of the big name European clubs if his Polish club can make progress in the European competitions.

During the Spanish tour, which is aimed at keeping the players fit over the winter recess, he also hopes, to make an impact, although he

may be a little short of match practice.

With so many young Australians going abroad, Kealy has achieved his start on the first rung of international success without the help of any agents or talent scouts in Australia.

He is, however, keeping in touch with Sydney skills coach Dusan Purac whom he met briefly during his short spell in State League this year, but at this stage the connection between Kealy and Purac is purely one of burgeoning friendship.

He first came to attention by winning the trials as a prize at his Sydney club, Polonia and impressed immediately.

No doubt more will be heard of David Kealy in the seasons to come.

VIDMAR CONFIDENT

AURELIO Vidmar would like nothing better than to be part of the World Cup finals in 1984 in the US.

To do that, he wants to convince long-time admirer, national coach Eddie Thomson he is the answer to Australia's attacking mid-field role.

"I have not heard anything yet from Eddie but I know he is to select his squad soon for the games against Czechoslovakia and I would love to be part of

that and the game against England in June. That should be huge," said Vidmar.

"I am only 23 and would be at my peak for the next World Cup finals and want to be involved in our campaign with the new squad.

"All I want to do is keep fit and healthy, hope I stay away from injuries, and play as well as I can to keep in his eye. I want to cement a spot in the national first team."

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Africa hails extra berth

KENYAN officials have praised the allocation of an extra World Cup slot to Africa but said the continent still deserved more places.

FIFA decided last week to give Africa a third place at the expense of Europe.

"The decision is exciting but not good enough."

"Europe cannot justify its remaining 12 slots when it is known that Africa now has many world class sides," Kenya National Sports Council administrative secretary Robert Ouko said.

"We deserve the place. We have shown ability to play at World

Cup level."

FIFA's decision was influenced by Cameroon's performance at the World Cup finals in Italy this year, where they were one of the few sides to play exciting, attacking soccer.

Cameroon became the first African team to win through to the quarter-finals of the tournament.

The Kenya Football Federation also welcomed the decision.

"It is a great victory for Africa. We have long fought for the place," said deputy secretary general Joseph Kirima.

"Kenya joins the rest of Africa in rejoicing, but it was long overdue."

Papin linked to tax dodge



JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN

JEAN-Pierre Papin, club skipper and leading scorer, is the fourth player at French champions Marseille alleged to have been involved in a \$200,000 dollar tax dodge.

The sports daily

RECORD UNITED DEFICIT

MANCHESTER United will announce a record loss of nearly \$7.7 million at its annual meeting in January.

Although the club accounts show an operating profit of \$5.5 million, there was a deficit of 5,156,875 pounds on transfers.

United manager Alex Ferguson has splashed out \$33 million in four years, with the only success being last season's FA Cup.

"L'Equipe" claimed Papin was given an interest-free loan in 1988 which he has not been asked to repay.

Former German international defender Karl-Heinz Forster and French internationals Alain Giresse and Philippe Vercruysse were also alleged to have profited from similar deals.

Club chairman Bernard Tapie has claimed there was nothing illegal about the arrangements although he has conceded the players might be forced to pay back tax.

Meanwhile, Bordeaux mayor Jacques Chaban-Delmas has instructed his lawyer to open civil proceedings in the fraud-related charges against chairman Claude Bez, his son Eric, and two builders face.

Chaban-Delmas said he was anxious to protect the city in case any public money had been mispent.

Alain Afflelou, who runs a chain of 360 opticians took over as chairman at Bordeaux, which is \$50 million in the red, last month.



Paul Merson (centre) and Alan Smith (right) celebrate Arsenal's first goal at Highbury as Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar sinks to his knees and Gary Gillespie stares from the goalmouth in English League action.

Honolulu wants to be World Cup site

HONOLULU became the first city to formally bid for games during the 1994 World Cup when it sent the organising committee a cheque for \$79,000 with an application for three first-round matches.

The bid asked for three first-round games for Aloha Stadium, which seats 50,000 for football. It also asks to be awarded the World Cup qualifying draw, set for December 1991.

A total of 32 cities have expressed interest in playing host to the World Cup's 52 matches and as many as 12 will be selected. While the deadline for applications is May 1,

ber 1, 1991, at the earliest.

Aloha Stadium has an artificial surface that would have to be converted to grass to be selected for World Cup matches.

The bid proposes that the qualifying draw be held next December 7, the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, to demonstrate that "man can compete peaceful-



sites will not be selected until December 24, 1990

ly through athletics rather than on the field of battle."

Vatican slams Maradona

DIEGO Maradona, criticised by Italy's sports press for his off-pitch prima donna behaviour, has come under fire from the Vatican's newspaper.

The "Osservatore Romano," which usually concerns itself with international and religious affairs, said in an article headlined "The Decline of a Star" that Argentinian Maradona, of the Napoli club, was "a champion only at the stadium".

"He has not known how to carry out the responsibility expected of every well-known sports figure, (who) must be a positive ex-



Diego Maradona is seen here remonstrating with World Cup final referee Edgardo Codesal.

ample for the young ... not only in technical ability but also in daily life," it said.

Referring to his spectacular wedding gala in Argentina last year, it said he was guilty of "brazenly flaunting opulence".

His "unpleasant behaviour" was unjustified and his penchant for flashy Mercedes and Ferrari sports cars

was "offensive for those who have little or nothing", it said.

In the past year Maradona has taken unauthorised holidays, refused to play in key matches and failed to turn up for training sessions.

Napoli announced earlier this month it was taking legal action against him for breach of contract.

Quest for the ideal stadium

FOOTBALL's world and European governing bodies said they had started a hunt for the perfect stadium.

The International Football Federation (FIFA) and the Association of European Football Unions (UEFA) said in a joint statement they were going to work together to make up "a model for the ideal stadium."

They said they were working together because of the pressing need to make the stadiums, that are mainly for standing spectators, into seated venues before the end of the century.



LAJOS DETARI: the Hungarian ace and his Italian club, Bologna, have fallen out and his current injury may well be "diplomatic".